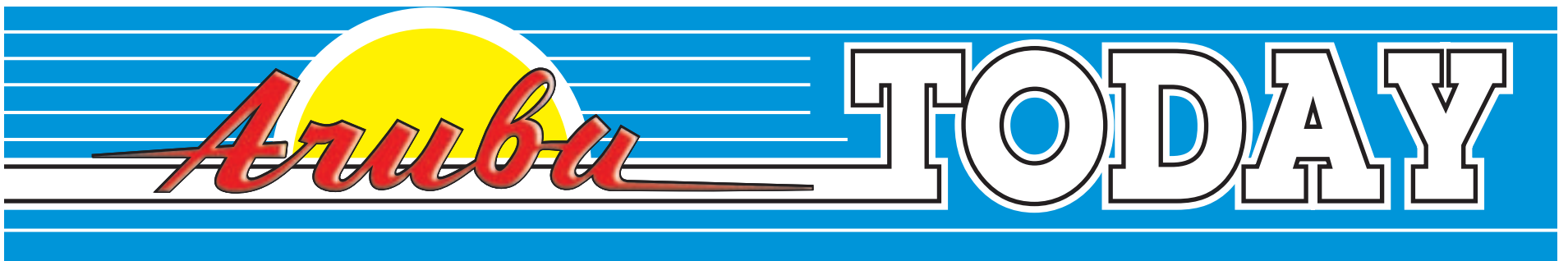




**PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL
MR. ARNE SORENSON VISITS THE RENAISSANCE ARUBA
RESORT & CASINO WHILE ON ARUBA FOR VACATION**

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Friday, August 15, 2014



A protester shouts as she moves away from a line of riot police in Ferguson, Mo. On Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, a white police officer fatally shot Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, in the St. Louis suburb.

(AP Photo/St. Louis Post-Dispatch, J.B. Forbes)

Police Shift Response to US Protests After Outcry

**DAVID A. LIEB
JIM SALTER**

Associated Press

FLORISSANT, Missouri (AP)

— Missouri state police will take over supervising security from local police in the St. Louis suburb that's been the scene of violent protests since a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black teenager, the governor announced

Thursday. A new protest with hundreds of people began hours later.

President Barack Obama has appealed for "peace and calm" on the streets of Ferguson, the predominantly black city where crowds have gathered to protest since Saturday's shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

Gov. Jay Nixon announced

that state Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson, who is black, will take over security after the local police response drew heavy criticism. Nixon said the change is intended to make sure "that we allow peaceful and appropriate protests, that we use force only when necessary, that we step back a little bit and let some of the energy be

felt in this region appropriately."

Nixon's promise to ease the deep racial tensions was swiftly put to the test as demonstrators gathered again Thursday evening in the neighborhood where looters smashed and burned businesses on Sunday and police repeatedly fired tear gas and smoke bombs.

Johnson said he grew up in the community and "it means a lot to me personally that we break this cycle of violence." He said he planned to keep heavily armored vehicles away from the scene and told his officers not to bring their tear gas masks.

Continued on page 5

Iraq's al-Maliki gives up post to rival

SAMEER N. YACCOUB

QASSIM ZAHRA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Nouri al-Maliki, Iraq's prime minister for the past eight years, relinquished the post to his nominated replacement late Thursday, ending a political deadlock that has plunged the country into uncertainty as it fights a Sunni militant insurgency. Standing alongside fellow Dawa Party member, Haider-al-Abadi, al-Maliki said he was stepping aside in favor of his "brother," in order to "facilitate the political process and government formation."

Al-Maliki said the decision to back al-Abadi reflected his desire to "safeguard the high interests of the country," adding that he would not be the cause of any bloodshed. "My post is your confidence in me," he declared in a televised address.

Al-Maliki has been struggling for weeks to stay on for a third four-year term as prime minister amid an attempt by opponents to push him out, accusing him of monopolizing power and pursuing a fiercely pro-Shiite agenda that has alienated the Sunni minority.

The pressure intensified this week when his Shiite political alliance backed al-Abadi to replace him, and President Fouad Massoum nominated al-Abadi to form the next government. Al-Maliki for days has refused to step aside, threatening legal action against the president for what he said was a violation of the

constitution.

But in a meeting of his party earlier Thursday, al-Maliki agreed to endorse al-Abadi as the next prime minister, two senior lawmakers from his State of Law parliamentary bloc — Hussein al-Maliki and Khalaf Abdul-Samad — told the Associated Press.



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki speaks to the press in Baghdad, Iraq. Iraq's Nouri al-Maliki has given up his post as prime minister to Haider al-Abadi, state television reported Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014 — a move that could end a political deadlock that plunged Baghdad into uncertainty as the country fights a Sunni militant insurgency.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

The lawmakers said al-Maliki also agreed to drop a suit before the constitutional court challenging al-Abadi's nomination.

Al-Maliki had grown increasingly isolated as he was deserted not only by his Shiite allies but also top ally Iran, the United States and the U.N. backed al-Abadi, who has 30-days to put together a Cabinet for

parliament's approval.

The U.N. Security Council urged al-Abadi to work swiftly to form "an inclusive government that represents all segments of the Iraqi population and that contributes to finding a viable and sustainable solution to the country's current challenges."

group's lightning advance across much of northern and western Iraq has driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes since June, and last week prompted the U.S. to launch aid operations and airstrikes as the militants threatened religious minorities and the largely auto-

The U.S. and other countries have been pushing for a more representative government that will ease anger among Sunnis, who felt marginalized by al-Maliki's administration, helping fuel the dramatic sweep by the Islamic State extremist group over much of northern and western Iraq since June.

The extremist Islamic State

mous Kurdish region.

The U.N. on Wednesday declared the situation in Iraq a "Level 3 Emergency" — a development that will allow for additional assets to respond to the needs of the displaced, said U.N. special representative Nickolay Mladenov, pointing to the "scale and complexity of the current humanitarian catastrophe." □

Holland mayor says Black Pete figure to change

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Amsterdam's mayor and the organizers of a large children's winter festival have unveiled plans to overhaul the image of "Black Pete" — the sidekick to the Dutch Santa Claus — after protests that the character exhibited racist elements.

Mayor Eberhard van der Laan said Thursday that Pete's appearance will be changed over several years from his current blackface to make him look like he has been merely covered with soot from going down chimneys to deliver presents.

Black Pete has become the subject of protests in the Netherlands. Opponents say he is a caricature of an African slave carried over from colonial times — he is usually portrayed by white people wearing blackface makeup, bold red lipstick and frizzy Afro wigs. But a large majority of the Netherlands' mostly white population says that Pete is a positive figure and denies any racial insult.

Pam Evenhuis, spokesman for the Amsterdam committee that organizes the arrival of Santa Claus, or "Sinterklaas" in Dutch, says change is necessary to make sure the children's festival is fun and not controversial. Details were still being debated.

"The Pete photo-shoot for 2014 isn't ready yet," he said.

In the Dutch tradition, Sinterklaas arrives on a steamboat laden with gifts, accompanied by numerous Black Petes. More than 250,000 people attend the celebration in Amsterdam alone.

Evenhuis said it's not possible to change Pete's appearance drastically in just a year, as his look is engrained in the minds of Dutch adults and children. Although Amsterdam is influential, other towns, businesses and individuals across the country may not want to change his look, the mayor added. □

Palestinians voice optimism as Gaza truce holds

M. DARAGHMEH

TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Palestinian officials voiced cautious optimism Thursday, hinting at progress in Egyptian-mediated negotiations with Israel to bring an end to the fighting in Gaza and secure new arrangements for the war-battered territory.

But with the sides' demands

still seemingly irreconcilable, that optimism may be premature and a deal not so close in the making.

Israel and Hamas are observing a five-day cease-fire which began at midnight Wednesday, in an attempt to allow talks between the sides in Cairo to continue. The negotiations are meant to secure a substantive end to the month-

long war and draw up a roadmap for the coastal territory, which has been hard-hit in the fighting.

Israeli officials have largely kept quiet about the negotiations. But militant groups represented in Cairo said progress was being made toward a deal — a stark turnaround from earlier posturing. "The war is now behind us, and the chances

for an agreement on a lasting cease-fire are encouraging," Ziad al-Nakhleh, deputy leader of the Islamic Jihad militant group, told The Associated Press. "Though we didn't get all that we wanted, there was progress here and there." Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev would not comment Thursday on the Cairo talks. □

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For Obama, pitfalls and power in addressing race

EDGARTOWN, Massachusetts (AP) — For President Barack Obama, the intersection of race and the law has revealed both the pitfalls and the power of wading into these delicate matters as America's first black president.

Just months after being sworn in, Obama rapped police in Massachusetts for acting "stupidly" by arresting a black Harvard professor at his own home. After more details of the case were revealed, Obama was forced to clarify his statements and tried to make amends by hosting an awkward "beer summit" at the White House with the professor and police officer.

Four years later, unburdened by re-election, Obama spoke out passionately about the 2013 acquittal of the man who fatally shot Trayvon Martin, an unarmed teen gunned down near his family's home in Florida. In unusually personal terms, Obama declared that Martin "could have been me 35 years ago" and gave voice to the pain felt by the African-American community.

Now the president is again wading into a racially charged matter that has riveted the U.S., this time in Ferguson, Missouri, the St. Louis suburb where an unarmed black teen was shot and killed by a white police officer. The death of 18-year-old Michael Brown Saturday has been followed by violent clashes between police and protesters.

In his first in-person statement on the situation, Obama appealed Thursday for "peace and calm" in Ferguson and called for restraint by all involved.

"There is never an excuse for violence against police or for those who would use this tragedy as a cover for vandalism or looting," Obama said, speak-

ing from the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard where he is in the midst of a two-week vacation. "There's also no excuse for police to use excessive

force against peaceful protests" The president decided to speak on the matter after receiving a late-night briefing Wednesday from Attorney General Eric Holder on the violence that had escalated while Obama mingled with former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and others at a birthday party. Until then, Obama had held off to give local law enforcement a chance to quiet the situation, but by Wednesday night it was clear that wasn't happening, according to a White House official who insisted on anonymity in order to describe the president's thinking. There are conflicting reports about what led to Brown's death.



President Barack Obama approaches a podium before speaking to reporters, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014, in Edgartown, Mass., to speak about the police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri. Obama is vacationing on the island.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

Continued on Page 27

Lawsuit challenges US terror database list

COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A civil rights group filed a federal lawsuit Thursday challenging the placement of five Detroit-area Muslims on a national watch list of suspected terrorists and their associates.

The watch list violates due process,

said Lena Masri, an attorney for the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, and the lawsuit asks a U.S. District judge in Detroit to declare it unconstitutional. The lawsuit also wants the government to notify

people going on the watch list and give them a chance to contest the designation. "Persons placed on the federal watch list have no means of removing themselves or challenging the basis for their inclusion," the lawsuit said. "Indeed, people on the federal watch lists only learn of their placement when they feel the web of consequences burdening their lives and aspirations, and they never learn why."

The National Counterterrorism Center says 1.1 million people were in the watch list database at the end of 2013. Online

publication The Intercept reported earlier this month that it obtained a secret 2013 government document and found Dearborn was second behind New York City in the number of listed names. The Detroit area, including Dearborn, is home to about 150,000 Muslims.

Masri said the list disproportionately targets American Muslims.

The lawsuit names the following as defendants: U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, FBI Director James Comey, Homeland Security Director Jeh Johnson and Terrorist

Screening Center Director Timothy Healy. Yaseen Kadura, Naji Abduljaber, Abdus Samad Tootla, Alaa Saade and Ahmed Saleh Abusaleh are named as plaintiffs.

The government has 60 days to respond to the lawsuit after being served, according to Masri. The Associated Press left a phone message Thursday for the Detroit U.S. attorney's office seeking comment.

The government doesn't need evidence of a terrorism link to place someone in the database, which feeds to smaller lists that restrict travel. □

First National Guard troops at Texas-Mexico border

C. SHERMAN

Associated Press

HIDALGO, Texas (AP) —

The first wave of National Guard troops took up observation posts along the Texas-Mexico border on Thursday, authorities said. Several dozen soldiers deployed in the Rio Grande Valley are part of the up to

1,000 troops called up by Gov. Rick Perry last month, Texas National Guard Master Sgt. Ken Walker of the Joint Counterdrug Task Force said. Several guardsmen were seen Thursday afternoon manning an observation tower along the busy road leading to the Hidalgo International Bridge.

This first batch of soldiers was specifically trained to man such observation towers in the area belonging to local law enforcement agencies and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Walker said. They will serve as extra eyes on the border and report suspicious activity to authorities.

State officials have estimated the deployment, which they've called a "deter and refer" mission will cost \$12 million per month.

On Wednesday, during a visit to Camp Swift Army National Guard Training Center outside Austin, Perry said the troops were needed to defend the na-



An Hidalgo Police Department observation tower being manned by Texas National Guard soldiers stands in Hidalgo, Texas, on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014. (AP Photo/C. Sherman)

tion against "narco-terrorists." Perry, a Republican possibly mulling a run for the White House, had said the soldiers were necessary to help secure the border while the Border Patrol was busy with a surge in illegal immigration.

From October to July, 63,000 unaccompanied children were arrested after entering the U.S. illegally, double the number from the same period a year earlier. Another 63,000 families — mothers or fathers with young children — were arrested during that period.

Those arrests have slowed, however. Arrests of children traveling alone and children and parents traveling together dropped by about half in July from the previous month.

A Customs and Border Protection document viewed by The Associated Press indicated that guardsmen would be manning CBP towers in Hidalgo and Starr counties, as well as towers for the Hidalgo and Pharr police departments and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office.

"They're just there for support," Walker said of the soldiers who entered the field this week after training in the area. "We're just trying to give some relief to the guys at Customs and Border Protection" and other law enforcement agencies. He said the duration of their deployment was not set, but that current funding only runs through September. □

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Progressive US\$ 1.15 (AWG 2.00)

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8:00pm - 11:00 pm
Prize 1 - \$ 200
Prize 2 - \$ 150
Prize 3 - \$ 50
Prize 4 - \$ 50

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From 9:00pm issuing FREE Bingo Card

SUNDAY

SUPER SUNDAY POWER BALL BINGO
1:00pm - 3:30pm
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Progressive US\$ 1.15 (AWG 2.00)

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Police shift response to US protests after outcry

Continued from Front

By late afternoon, Johnson was walking down the street with a group of more than 1,000 protesters as they chanted "Hands up, don't shoot," a reference to witness accounts that described Brown as having his hands in the air when the officer kept firing.

Johnson planned to talk to the demonstrators throughout the night.

"We're going to have some conversations with them and get an understanding of what's going on."

Obama, speaking from the Massachusetts island where he's on a two-week vacation, said there was no excuse for excessive force by police in the aftermath of the shooting. He said he had asked the Justice Department and FBI to investigate the incident.

"I know emotions are raw right now in Ferguson, and there are certainly passionate differences about what has happened," Obama said.

"But let's remember that we're all part of one American family. We are united in common values, and that includes the belief in equality under the law, respect for public order and the right to peaceful public protests."

St. Louis County police spokesman Brian Schellman said officers on Wednesday night tossed tear gas to disperse a large crowd of protesters after some threw Molotov cocktails and rocks at officers. More than 10 people were arrested in Ferguson.

"In talking to these guys, it is scary," Schellman said of officers on the front lines of the protest. "They hear gunshots going off, and they don't know where they're coming from."

Residents in Ferguson have complained about the police response that began soon after Brown's shooting with the use of dogs for crowd control — a tactic that for some evoked civil-rights protests from a half-century ago. The county police force took over,

leading both the investigation of Brown's shooting and the subsequent attempts to keep the peace at the smaller city's request.

County Police Chief Jon Belmar said his officers have responded with "an incredible amount of restraint" as they've had rocks and bottles thrown at them, been shot at and had two dozen patrol vehicles destroyed.

The city and county are also under criticism for refusing to release the name of the officer who shot Brown, citing threats against that officer and others. The hacker group Anonymous on Thursday released a name purported to be that of the officer, but the Ferguson police chief said later that the name was incorrect.

Twitter quickly suspended the Anonymous account that posted the officer's purported identity and personal information. The site's code of conduct strictly forbids the publication of private and confidential information without permission.



Capt. Ronald Johnson, foreground, commander of Missouri Highway Patrol's Troop C, addresses media at the University of Missouri St. Louis on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014, at after Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, right, announced that Johnson and the Highway Patrol will be taking over security at the Ferguson protest scene. St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley, left, and St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay also made statements.

(AP Photo/St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Christian Gooden)

Police have said Brown was shot after an officer encountered him and another man on the street. They say one of the men pushed the officer into his squad car, then physically assaulted him in the vehicle and struggled with the officer over the officer's weapon. □



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Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren speaks on the economy.

(AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

Boston Fed Chief warns of dangers to a short-term debt market

PETER EAVIS

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Wall Street banks continue to rely for billions of dollars in borrowing on a market that dried up suddenly in 2008, sending shock waves through the financial system and the wider economy.

Since the crisis, some steps have been taken to shore up the potentially unstable debt market, known as the repo market. But this week, Eric S. Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, became the latest prominent regulator to call for a more ambitious overhaul of the repo market.

In particular, he suggested that financial institutions making large use of repo borrowing should maintain higher levels of capital.

"Broker-dealers can experience significant funding problems during times of financial stress," he said Wednesday at a conference at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

"Unfortunately that potential for problems has not been fully addressed."

The Dodd-Frank Act of 2010 and international regulatory agreements have introduced many rules since the crisis that are aimed at making the financial system stronger.

Still, some regulators, including Janet L. Yellen, the Fed chairwoman, and Daniel K. Tarullo, the Fed governor who oversees regulation, are still concerned about Wall Street's heavy use of short-term debt markets to finance their operations.

Most of the concern centers on repurchase agreements, known in the banking world as repos. These allow broker-dealers to borrow at low rates for short periods against collateral, usually bonds.

The market turned treacherous in 2008 as broker-dealers like Lehman Bros. encountered severe financial trouble, causing the repo market to seize and

prompting the Fed to make billions of dollars of emergency loans across Wall Street to keep the market functioning and prevent a failure of the system.

"The collapse of Lehman was not an isolated failure of a single broker-dealer but rather one of a string of crises for multiple broker-dealers," Rosengren said in his speech.

While repo borrowing has fallen from its peak before the financial crisis, it is still by far the largest source of borrowing for broker-dealers. In 2013, repos and similar types of borrowings accounted for 52 percent of broker-dealer obligations, according to figures in a chart that Rosengren cited in his speech, down from 59 percent in 2007.

"The funding model, the core of the problem, hasn't changed at all," Rosengren said in an interview. "It is a model that is designed for government intervention." □

Help now on the way for repaying student loans

ANN CARRNS

© 2014 New York Times

If you are struggling with student loans that you took out before October 2007, there is a new, more generous option in the works that may help you manage your debt payments.

In June, President Barack Obama signed an executive order that expanded the "pay as you earn" program, known as PAYE. The program caps monthly student loan repayments at 10 percent of your income and allows any balance remaining after 20 years to be forgiven.

The program has been available since late 2012 for some borrowers (those who took out their first loan after Sept. 30, 2007, and who were still borrowing after September 2011). But the president's order widens the pool of eligible borrowers to include those with older loans or who stopped borrowing by October 2011. The administration says the expansion could make the option available to millions more student borrowers.

There is a catch, however. To give the government time to carry out the expansion, it won't become available until late next year.

What if you need help now?

You can consider other programs already in place, like income-based repayment, or IBR. It is one of several income-driven programs available to help borrowers manage educational debt. Details of the programs vary, depending on the type of loan and when you borrowed the money.

Terms are less generous than with PAYE, but they can still make a big difference in your monthly payment if you have high debt relative to your income.

IBR is the most broadly available option, covering new and older loans.

IBR "classic," as it is known by some student debt aficionados, caps monthly repayments at 15 percent of your income and allows any balance remaining after 25 years to be forgiven. IBR classic is an option for both direct loans - those made by the federal government - and older loans made by private lenders and guaranteed by the federal government, under a program that concluded in 2010.

The PAYE option, by contrast, is available only for direct federal loans.

(Last month, an updated version of IBR became available for new borrowers, offering a cap of 10 percent of your income and a 20-year discharge period. But that is just for students taking out their first loan after July 1.)

Evaluating the different repayment plans, with their varying requirements, can be confusing. That's unfortunate, because strapped borrowers may be overwhelmed by the choices and end up doing nothing, said Persis Yu, a lawyer with the National Consumer Law Center. Consolidation of the various programs, she said, would be a welcome change. □



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US Financial Front:

Jobless aid applications rise in America to 311,000

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More people applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, although jobless claims continue to be close to pre-recession levels.

Weekly applications for unemployment aid climbed 21,000 to a seasonally adjusted 311,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The prior week's was revised up slightly to 290,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose 2,000 to 295,750. That continues to be close to averages that predate the beginning of the Great Recession in late 2007.

"Stepping back from the weekly volatility," said Jen-



In this file photo, Carmen Nazario of Albany, N.Y., fills out an employment application during a job fair at the Marriott Hotel in Colonie, N.Y. The Labor Department reported on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits last week on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

nifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, "the trend is still very encouraging and points to continued job growth."

Applications are a proxy for layoffs. When fewer employers shed workers, it suggests potentially rising incomes, increased hiring

activity and confidence that the economy is improving.

Employers are searching for more workers.

In June, they advertised the most monthly job openings in more than 13 years, the government reported Tuesday. Employers posted 4.67 million jobs that month, up 2.1 percent from May's total of 4.58 million, according to the Labor Department. The number of advertised openings was the highest since February 2001, suggesting that hiring should continue to be solid in the coming months.

Still, the openings report showed that the hiring rate has not risen over the past year as quickly as the num-

ber of positions being advertised.

Job openings have increased 17.6 percent during the past 12 months, while hiring has risen 9.3 percent during the same period.

Yet the monthly net job gains have been solid in the past six months.

Employers added 209,000 jobs in July, the sixth straight month of job gains above 200,000. The economy has now produced an average 244,000 jobs a month since February. The recent spurt of hiring has encouraged more people to start looking for work, causing the unemployment rate to inch up to 6.2 percent from 6.1 percent. □

NY Fed:

Auto loans soar to highest in 8 years

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. auto loans jumped to the highest level in eight years this spring, fueled by a big increase in lending to risky borrowers, according to a report Thursday by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Yet the New York Fed also said that loans to borrowers with shoddy credit, also known as subprime lending, still make up a smaller proportion of total auto loans than before the Great Recession. Federal banking regulators have raised concerns in recent months over the rapid increase in subprime auto loans.

Such loans could lead to more defaults, harming banks and consumers. Auto loans are also packaged into securities and sold to investors, like mort-

gage loans. That could amplify the impact of any rise in auto loan defaults.

This spring, banking regulators at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency said that "signs of increasing risk are evident" in auto lending.

They found that lenders are making larger car loans. As a result, the size of car loans in default has increased in the past two years.

The Justice Department said last week that it is investigating General Motors' financing arm over its subprime lending practices. Still, the New York Fed report stops short of recommending specific steps. In a separate post on its website, New York Fed economists said they would "continue to monitor" the issue. Banks and other lenders issued \$101 billion in new auto loans in the April-June

quarter, according to the quarterly report on household debt.

Total outstanding auto loans rose to \$905 billion in the second quarter.

Auto loans are the third-largest source of Americans' debt, after mortgages and student loans. Mortgage debt actually declined in the second quarter to \$8.1 trillion while student debt rose to \$1.12 trillion.

Americans have \$669 billion on their credit cards. Mortgage lending weakened in the second quarter to the slowest pace in 14 years. That includes both mortgages for purchase and refinancing. Banks have significantly tightened their credit standards for mortgage loans since the recession. Home sales have also leveled off this year. □

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WHO: Ebola toll may 'vastly underestimate' crisis

JONATHAN LAYLEH

SARAH DILORENZO

Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)

There is evidence the numbers of dead and sickened by Ebola in West Africa may "vastly underestimate the magnitude of the outbreak," the World Health Organization said Thursday. The U.N. health agency said it was prepared for the crisis to continue for months. With more than 1,060 deaths and 1,975 sickened, the Ebola outbreak is already the deadliest ever. Liberian officials faced a difficult choice Thursday: deciding which handful of Ebola patients will receive an experimental drug that could prove life-saving, ineffective or even harmful. ZMapp, the untested Ebola drug, arrived in the West African country late Wednesday. A day later, no one had yet received the treatment, which officials said would go to three people. The outbreak, which was first identified in March in Guinea and since spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone and

Nigeria, has overwhelmed the already strained health systems in West Africa and raised questions about whether authorities are doing enough to respond. There is no licensed treatment for Ebola, a virus transmitted by contact with bodily fluids, so doctors have turned to the limited supply of untested drugs to treat some cases.

The Liberian government had previously said two doctors would receive ZMapp, but it was unclear who else would. Information Minister Lewis Brown said Thursday it would probably be another health care worker. These are the last known doses of ZMapp left. The San Diego-based company that developed it has said it will take months to build up even a modest supply. The outbreak has sparked an international debate over the ethics of giving such untested drugs to the sick and of deciding who should get the drugs. So far, only two Americans and one Spaniard have re-

ceived ZMapp. The Americans are improving but it is unclear what role the drug has played. The Spaniard died within days. Now Liberian officials are facing those questions. In this outbreak, over 50 percent of those sickened with Ebola have died, ac-

cusing on medical staff." He added people past the "critical phase" who looked likely to survive would not be chosen. Massaquoi said there was only enough of the drug to treat three people. Treatment will be staggered, so doctors can observe

of people with learning the most from the treatments. He said the question is not "whose life do we save?" but "who gets the chance to be experimented on?" For that reason, recipients need to be good experimental subjects people who have recently con-



The body of a man found in the street, suspected of dying from the ebola virus is sprayed with disinfectant, in the capital city of Monrovia, Liberia. There is evidence the numbers of dead and sickened by Ebola in West Africa may "vastly underestimate the magnitude of the outbreak," the World Health Organization said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Abbas Dulleh)



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cording to the U.N. health agency.

"The criteria of selection is difficult, but it is going to be done," said Dr. Moses Massaquoi, who helped Liberia obtain the drug from Mapp Biopharmaceutical. "We are going to look at how critical people are. We are definitely going to be fo-

the effects in one patient before moving on to the next. Late Thursday, he said the treatment had not yet started.

Arthur Caplan, director of medical ethics at NYU Langone Medical Center, said the choice of who to treat would have to balance helping the largest number

tracted the disease and are more likely to respond to treatment or perhaps younger patients, he said. In order to study the long-term effects, doctors will likely prefer people who can be observed for months, which might eliminate those living in remote places, he added. □

Morocco dismantles recruitment cell for IS

PAUL SCHEMM

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) —

Moroccan police dismantled a nine-person cell recruiting volunteers to fight with the radical Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, the Interior Ministry said in a statement Thursday.

The network was operating in the Mediterranean city of Tetouan, Fez and Fnideq, a small town near the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, raising funds and sending people to Syria and Iraq, the police said.

A statement from the Spanish Interior Ministry, which was involved in the investigation, said the network also operated in its North African enclave of Ceuta.

While Morocco has experienced few terrorist attacks, it has become a fertile recruiting ground for jihadi networks, sending fighters to places like Syria and Mali with authorities finding new cells every few months.

In May and June, Moroccan police dismantled two other recruitment cells, also based out of Fez and on

the Mediterranean coast, while Spain has arrested dozens of recruiters in recent years, many operating out of its North African enclaves.

Some of the recruits were planning on using their training to return to Morocco and carry out bombing attacks, the Moroccan statement added.

Morocco's Interior Ministry says that 1,212 Moroccans belong to terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria, including the Islamic State group. At least 100 have been arrested on their return. □



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Ukraine, Russia parry over Russian aid convoy

ALEXANDER ROSLYAKOV

Associated Press

KAMENSK-SHAKHTINSKY,

Russia (AP) — Raising the

stakes in Ukraine's conflict,

a Russian aid convoy

of more than 200 trucks

pushed up to the bor-

these trucks in, without

taking all of the steps the

Ukrainian government has

outlined," U.S. State De-

partment spokeswoman

Marie Harf said Thursday.

Amid the tensions surround-

ing the convoy, European

the Russian trucks did enter

the country, they poten-

tially could unload some-

where other than city itself.

The Russian convoy set out

Thursday morning from a

military depot in the south-

ern Russian city of Vo-

has decided not to abide

by a tentative agreement

to deliver aid to a govern-

ment-controlled border

checkpoint in the Kharkiv

region, where it could

more easily be inspected

by Ukraine and the Red

Cross.

Taking Novosvitlivka "dis-

rupted the last opportunity

for movement between

Luhansk and other territo-

ries controlled by Russian

mercenaries," Ukrainian

security council spokes-

man Andriy Lysenko told

reporters.

Lysenko also said that if the

Russians refused to let the

Red Cross inspect its cargo

"the movement of the con-

voy will be blocked with all

the forces available."

Ukraine suspects the con-

voy could be a pretext for

a Russian military invasion

or further support for the

pro-Russian rebels it has

been fighting since April.

While the disputed aid

convoy stopped short of

the border, The Guardian

newspaper reported see-

ing a separate convoy of

Russian military vehicles

crossing into Ukraine late

Thursday.

The paper said a column

of 23 armored personnel

carriers with Russian mili-

tary plates crossed through

a gap in barbed wire

fence into Ukrainian terri-

tory. Ukraine and The West

have long accused Russia

of carrying out such incur-

sions to help arm the reb-

els, claims that Moscow

denies. It was impossible

to independently verify the

report. □



Drivers listen to instructions as they stand near their white trucks with humanitarian aid after parking in a field about 28 kilometers from Ukrainian border in Rostov-on-Don region, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014. Russia on Tuesday dispatched some hundreds of trucks, although only a small proportion were counted in this convoy, covered in white tarps on a mission to deliver aid to a rebel-held zone in eastern Ukraine. (AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin)

der on Thursday but then stopped, provocatively poised to cross into rebel-held territory.

The Ukrainian government threatened to use all means available to block the convoy if the Red Cross was not allowed to inspect the cargo. Such an inspection would ease concerns that Russia could use the aid shipment as cover for a military incursion in support of the separatists, who have come under growing pressure from government troops.

The United States has warned Russia that it needs to secure Ukraine's permission for the convoy to enter.

"We've made that very clear to the Russians that they should not move

Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso called Russian and Ukrainian leaders to arrange three-way consultations on ways to de-escalate the crisis. Barroso's office said that details will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Ukraine announced it was organizing its own aid shipment to the war-racked separatist region of Luhansk.

Complicating the dispute over the dueling missions, Ukraine said Thursday it has gained control over a key town near Luhansk city, thereby giving it the means to block the presumed route that the Russian convoy would take to the city. The town, Novosvitlivka, lies about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the border, so if

ronezh where it had been parked since late Tuesday. Moscow says the convoy has 262 vehicles, including about 200 trucks carrying aid.

The white-tarped trucks, some flying the red flag of Moscow and escorted by military vehicles, drove down a winding highway through sunflower fields and then turned west toward the rebel-held border crossing of Izvaryne.

But about 28 kilometers (17 miles) from the border, the trucks pulled off and parked in a large field where dozens of beige tents had been set up. Drivers in matching khaki shorts and shirts piled out and appeared to be stopping for the night.

The route suggested Russia



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Eurozone recovery grinds to halt amid Ukraine fear

DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Well, that didn't last long.

After four quarters of meager growth, the fragile economic recovery in the 18-country eurozone creaked to a halt in the second quarter.

Growth was zero. After only 0.2 percent in the first quarter. Now who will get out and push? The European Central Bank, with a further monetary stimulus? Or governments in France and Italy, which have dragged their heels in making their economies more business-friendly?

Either or both could help. Especially if the Ukraine crisis mushrooms with a Russian invasion that would scare off business investment even more — and ex-

tend one bad quarter into an outright recession.

Few economists think the eurozone will slip back into its third recession in six years. Most expect only a slow recovery as Europe continues to work down its debts and that's not ideal for a global economy that's a long way short of firing on all cylinders.

In short, the eurozone remains a potential drag on the rest of the world.

"I don't think today's numbers make that picture any worse," said Tom Rogers, senior economic adviser to the EY eurozone forecast. "It's still going to be a slow recovery for the eurozone and it will be a slow recovery for eurozone markets for imports from the rest of the world." Here's what happened:

SILENT SPRING: Germany let

everyone down by shrinking 0.2 percent in the second quarter from the previous three-month period. Economists aren't too con-



Head of the European Central Bank, ECB, Mario Draghi attends a news conference in Frankfurt, Germany. After four quarters of meager growth, the fragile economic recovery in the 18-country eurozone creaked to a halt in the second quarter.
(AP Photo/dpa, Boris Roessler)

cerned because they think a lot of the growth simply migrated to the first quarter because of a very warm

winter that let construction start early. Europe's biggest economy remains the continent's standout performer. It has low unem-

ployment and took steps to cut business taxes and costs years ago.

RUMORS OF WAR: The "Pu-

tin effect," as economists at Berenberg Bank call it, comes from fears that Russian President Vladimir Putin may back an invasion of eastern Ukraine where pro-Russian separatists are fighting Ukrainian government forces. That worry is making businesses hesitant to invest. Though eurozone exports to Russia are only 0.8 percent of the bloc's annual gross domestic product, the crisis has hurt business confidence — executives are wary of risking cash for expansion, just as they were getting their mojo back after the debt crisis of the past few years. Business surveys like Germany's Ifo show the fear is taking hold.

Ukraine fears have only grown since the end of the quarter on June 30. Since then, the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Ukraine on July 17 — by a missile from territory held by pro-Russian separatists, according to the U.S. and Ukraine — has increased tensions dramatically.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS: Stagnating France and Italy are balking at politically tough reforms that would lower costs for businesses. France's economy was flat in the second quarter. Italy's shrank 0.2 percent, for the 11th drop in the past 12 quarters. So-called structural reforms include easing rigid rules on hiring and firing, and especially in Italy's case, reducing choking bureaucracy and corruption. France has tried cutting payroll taxes to help business but further steps have stalled. Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi came into office six months ago promising fast change, but now says reforms will be rolled out over the next 1,000 days.

QE, TOO? The European Central Bank will likely hear more calls for it to roll out more monetary stimulus for the flagging economy. It could do that by buying large amounts of financial assets such as government bonds, using newly created money — something only a central bank can do. □

Pope's small car fascinates South Koreans



Pope Francis waves from a car after his arrival in Seongnam, south of Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014. As Francis became the first pope in 25 years to visit South Korea on Thursday, Seoul's never-timid rival, North Korea, made its presence felt by firing three short-range projectiles less than an hour before he arrived, officials said.

(AP Photo/Yonhap, Shin Jun-hee)

YOUKYUNG LEE
AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Pope Francis' choice of wheels during his five-day South Korean visit has surprised many in this painfully self-conscious country, where big shots rarely hit the streets in anything but expensive luxury cars.

After his arrival Thursday, the pope left the airport in a compact black Kia that many South Koreans would consider too humble a

conveyance for a globally powerful figure.

In a live television broadcast, the pope climbed into the backseat of the boxy Kia Soul, rolled down the window and waved. Surrounded by a few bigger black sedans, the pope's compact car headed toward Seoul.

Francis' frugality and humble demeanor have received wide coverage in South Korea, a fiercely competitive country that

celebrates ostentatious displays of status and wealth. This national trait can be seen in booming industries such as private tutoring and plastic surgery.

The images of the smiling pope in his little car struck a chord online, with many playing on the car's name. One South Korean user tweeted: "The pope rode the Soul because he is full of soul."

For the man called "The People's Pope" the choice

makes sense. He has eschewed the bulletproof "popemobiles" that his predecessors used on foreign trips and urged priests around the world to travel in low-key cars.

Inside the Vatican City, the pope prefers a blue Ford Focus, or when he's out in St. Peter's Square, a white open-topped vehicle that allows him to literally reach out and touch the masses. South Korean media widely reported that the pope requested the smallest South Korean car during his visit. The Soul is Kia's second-smallest model and reportedly provides more leg room than other compact cars.

Though not everyone loves the Soul's funky design, it appeals to a niche of young, practical drivers. It has never, however, been a car of the rich and powerful. Already bubbling with excitement over the first papal visit in 25 years, South Koreans appeared fascinated by the humble papal car. "I feel honored that Pope Francis will not be in a bulletproof vehicle," said Shon Cho-eun, a 22-year-old Christian student. "I hope he arrives safely and delivers good messages to us." □

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Gunmen wreak havoc in Caracas emergency rooms

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— At first, the operating room doctors thought the quiet man in jeans was a distressed family member. One shouted at him to leave as another fought to save the gunshot patient unconscious on the table. The anesthesiologist was the first to see the man's gun. He dove to the ground, and then listened as dozens of shots rang out, thinking, "So this is how I die."

For years, hospitals were one of the few safe havens in this mind-bogglingly violent Latin American country.

No longer. The emergency room murder of a 27-year-old patient by the very gang member who allegedly put him there in the first place is one of a string of recent attacks and ugly confrontations that have shattered physicians' sense of security.

"It's a scandal, to kill some-

one inside a hospital. It's complete social deterioration," said Jose Manuel Olivares, an oncology resident at the University Hospital of Caracas, where Edinson Balsa was slain in June



Carmen Bolivar, a University Hospital nurse, poses for a photo outside of the Hospital in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. Last June Carmen stood paralyzed by fear next to a patient's brother as a gunman walked in on them. University Hospital, a sprawling, poorly maintained building that resembles a noisy bus station, guards still go unarmed, there is no surveillance system and a worn sign reading "No entrance" is the only thing stopping a person from walking into the operating area. Security workers say they would run if confronted by an armed intruder. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

along with his brother, who was waiting in the hallway. "It was never perfect, but they used to respect some boundaries."

Physicians say men now regularly enter emergency rooms waving guns to compel doctors to work miracles on injured companions or provide scarce medicine. In some cases,

they go further.

Earlier this year, a man stole into an intensive care unit in the city of Maracaibo, on Venezuela's west-

ern edge, to finish the job of killing a gunshot patient, according to the local press.

Two weeks after the brothers were murdered in Caracas, another man allegedly involved in street crime was killed in a hospital across town.

Conditions are worst in the countryside. In the small town of Rio Chico, an hour and a half east of Caracas, the main hospital now has a safe room where doctors can hide when armed friends and enemies of patients storm through, medical resident Pedro Blanco said.

A turning point came last fall, when armed gangs took control of a hospital near one of the city's slums on consecutive days, demanding medical at-

tention for wounded comrades, one of whom arrived already dead from a gunshot to the head.

Doctors say the crisis of violence in emergency rooms stems from a growing culture of impunity. Independent analysts report that more than 90 percent of homicides go unsolved here, compared to about 35 percent in the US.

The United Nations ranks Venezuela as the world's second most dangerous country outside a war zone, after Honduras, even using widely questioned official statistics. Non-governmental groups calculate that Venezuela, a country slightly more populous than Texas, sees more killings each year than the U.S. and the European Union combined. □

Haiti tense after summons issued for Aristide

EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Supporters of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide blockaded the street in front of his home Thursday amid fears he could face arrest for failing to obey a Haitian court's summons to testify in a money-laundering case.

Around 150 people set up barricades of rocks and burning tires across the normally busy street in front of Aristide's home in the capital. There were no signs of police or any of the U.N. peacekeepers who have helped keep order in Haiti since Aristide was ousted by a violent re-

bellion in February 2004.

Mario Joseph, a lawyer for Aristide, said the summons was not properly served on the former president and he could not be legally taken into custody as a result.

An investigating magistrate, Lamarre Belizaire, issued the summons ordering Aristide to appear in court Wednesday. A copy of the order obtained by The Associated Press says the case involves allegations of laundering drug money but does not provide details.

Joseph said Aristide never received the summons home in Port-au-Prince, where he has largely lived a secluded life behind high

walls since he returned in March 2011 from exile in South Africa. The lawyer showed up at the court at the appointed time after hearing media reports about the hearing and brought a letter explaining why the summons should not be considered properly served.

The judge himself did not show up at the hearing and he could not be reached for comment. Under Haitian law, the judge could issue an order requiring police to take Aristide into custody for questioning, but it was not known whether he did so. Joseph said he had been unable to reach the judge to clarify the situation. □

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Online sites shake up hidebound retailing in India

KAY JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Finding a way into India's vast but vexing market has long frustrated foreign retailers. Now, overseas investors are pouring billions of dollars into e-commerce ventures that are circumventing the barriers holding back retail powers such as Wal-Mart and Ikea. Some investors see India as the world's next big e-commerce opportunity, with the upcoming mammoth public stock offering of Chinese online giant Alibaba hinting at the potential.

Online shopping is still in its infancy in India at \$2.3 billion of an overall \$421 billion retail market in 2013, according to research firm Crisil.

But it is growing fast and the potential of reaching a mostly untapped market of 1.2 billion people has sparked a funding-and-expansion arms race.

Flipkart, a Bangalore-based company founded in 2007 by two former Amazon employees, last month announced it had raised \$1 billion in mostly foreign capital after building its registered users to 22 million.

A day later, Amazon raised the stakes with founder Jeff Bezos saying the company would pour \$2 billion into developing its India business.



A phone app is demonstrated in carousel mode on the new Amazon Fire Phone in Seattle. Finding a way into India's vast but vexing market has long frustrated foreign retailers. Now, overseas investors are pouring billions of dollars into e-commerce ventures that are circumventing the barriers holding back retail powers such as Amazon, Wal-Mart and Ikea.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Snapdeal.com, whose investors include eBay Inc., has raised at least \$234 million in the past year, and recently local media have reported that Rajan Tata of India's Tata Group conglomerate is considering a personal investment in the company.

The flood of overseas capi-

tal comes even though foreign investment in online retailing is not permitted in India, which would seem an even more stringent barrier than the local product sourcing requirements that caused Wal-Mart and IKEA pull back on plans to build megastores. However, e-commerce businesses that

are partly or wholly foreign owned have found a way to work around the rules to offer books, clothes and electronics on their sites. Neither Flipkart nor Amazon technically engage in online retailing. Instead, to get around the foreign investment ban, both companies serve as Internet-

based hosts for thousands of third-party sellers, taking commissions in exchange for marketing and, often, arranging shipping of the products.

Even Amazon's Kindle e-reader is not sold directly by the company. On the Amazon.in site, the latest Kindle reader is sold by Infinity Retail Ltd., a subsidiary of Tata Group, which purchases the device from Amazon.

Customers get the device but pay more for the extra layer of reselling: the Kindle that sells for \$119 on the U.S. online store goes for 9,999 rupees (\$167) on the Indian website.

India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley mentioned liberalizing e-commerce in his July budget speech, but so far the government has not taken any steps to change the foreign investment restrictions.

It may be a while before the big investment outlays translate into profits. Most of the billions raised by e-commerce businesses will be plowed back into building up the companies, from acquiring warehouses to developing shipping networks and also offering deep discounts to squeeze smaller players out of the market, said Ajay Srinivasan, director of Crisil Research, which is majority funded by Standard & Poor's.

"Financial muscle ensures you are able to withstand the initial few years when you are not going to be making money and you'll be burning cash," Srinivasan said. "It also allows you to offer better deals to customers to build market share."

The battle is playing out on TV and in newspapers.

Amazon.com India is running front-page spreads touting its next-day delivery service and easy return policy. Snapdeal has a television ad with a put-upon housemaid unpacking all the purchases a happy middle class family has made online and complaining that with all the money they are saving, she should get a raise.

US fund says no deal to end Argentina default

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Negotiations have apparently ended without success on a private-sector deal to end the legal battle that forced Argentina into default last month for the second time in 13 years.

Aurelius Capital Management LP said it had been in talks with private parties to sell its Argentine bonds at the heart of the dispute, but the offered payments were not even "remotely acceptable," to the U.S.-based investment fund.

"That engagement has convinced us that there is

no realistic prospect of a private solution," Aurelius said in a statement issued late Wednesday that did not disclose the details of the proposals, nor the participants. Argentina was forced into a default July 30 by its decade-long legal battle with Aurelius and other U.S. investors who refused to accept lower payments for bonds that the South American country defaulted on in 2001. The investors obtained a U.S. court order, upheld by the Supreme Court, preventing Argentina from making

a \$539 million interest payment on July 30, triggering a second default by the country. Analysts have warned that the default could derail an already weak Argentine economy. Argentina has said it cannot pay the approximately \$1.5 billion sought by the holdout investors without offering the same terms to investors who previously accepted lower payments, at least not until next year when a clause requiring equal treatment expires. The Argentine government says it is not really in default,

since it made the interest payment but the bank was prevented from distributing the money.

Argentine media have reported that local and multinational banks have been in negotiations to buy the debt from the holdouts but none of the alleged participants have confirmed the talks or been willing to publicly discuss the details. Aurelius said that the entities making the proposals "were not prepared to fund more than a small part, if any, of the payments they wanted us to accept."



President and CEO of Marriott International Mr. Arne Sorenson visits Aruba



ORANJESTAD - Mr. Arne Sorenson, CEO and President of Marriott International visited the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino during his vacation on Aruba, in connection with the renovation of the Renaissance Marina, the Adult rooms, Blue Bar, Papagayo restaurant on the Renaissance Island and L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop house.

Mr. Sorenson was very impressed with the renovations that recently took place and he admired the brand new rooms of the Renaissance Ocean suites which will be open



for check in by the end of November.

All department heads, including Management of the Crystal and Sea-port Casinos were able to spend some time with Mr. Sorenson to share all the changes and developments that the Renaissance has to offer.

At the end of his stay Mr. Sorenson expressed his appreciation to the island Aruba and his enormous satisfaction with the location of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, known as a lifestyle resort in the center of Oranjestad. □

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which will satisfy the palates of the most extreme wine connoisseurs is actually another good reason to visit The Blue Lobster Restaurant. The Blue Lobster Restaurant is a must-visit while in Aruba. Enjoy the real Aruban flavors here too! Authentic local food is available at noon for lunch, including fresh catch of the day, sopi pisca (local-style delicious fish soup), keri-keri (shark meat in a delicious local seasoning) frikandel (homemade Aruban style fishcakes) or try any of the local stews just like grandma made them from centuries ago. "Good Food Does Not Need To Be Expensive," and one can rest assure there will be: Good food, good service and good prices. See you at The Blue Lobster Restaurant! □

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino Pampers Local Clientele During the 'Crystal Fusion Ball' Customer Event



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino pampered their local clientele and showcased their end-of-year celebration offerings during the annual customer event themed 'Crystal Fusion Ball'.

The event was held at the



Grand Ballroom of the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, which was spectacularly decorated with touches of crystals and blue lighting portraying a warm and welcoming atmosphere while the band Sunny Ray entertained the invitees with live entertainment. The setup was uniquely designed with a cozy tea corner, lounge ar-



reas, a variety of delightful food stations offering sushi, shrimp and pork wok, glazed 5 spice ham, beef tenderloin with fungi porcini sauce, ayaca, 'keeshi yena' and an impressive dessert station.

At closing, Chela de Lannoy, Sr. Sales Manager announced the lucky winners of six attractive prizes which included two brunches at La Vista, two dinners at Simply Fish, a weekend stay at the Aruba Marriott



Resort and a weekend stay at the Curacao Marriott with airfare and breakfast included. The winners were all pleasantly surprised with their prizes.

The venue was beautifully decorated by Rosetty Eleonora of The Perfect Team with audio visual by Elite and LED furniture by High Performance.

"We are very pleased to or-

ganize this special event for our customers as a token of appreciation for their continued support throughout the year. The local community is very important for our company and we are always working on how we can better meet their needs in the future shared Carolina Voulleime, Director of Sales & Marketing. □



Richard and Pamela Hoyt Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors, at the Marriott Surf Club. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism

as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Richard and Mrs. Pamela Hoyt from Park Ridge, New Jersey. Richard and Pamela are loyal members of the

Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them and like John says Aruba is truly a One Hap-



py Island. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority

together with Mrs. Jenny Boekhoudt and Mr. Joop Bangma, GM at the Marriott Surf Club. □

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Tommy Robredo, from Spain, celebrates after upsetting Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, 7-6 (6), 7-5, during a match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.
Associated Press

Djokovic upset by Robredo at Cincy tennis

MARK SCHMETZER
Associated Press

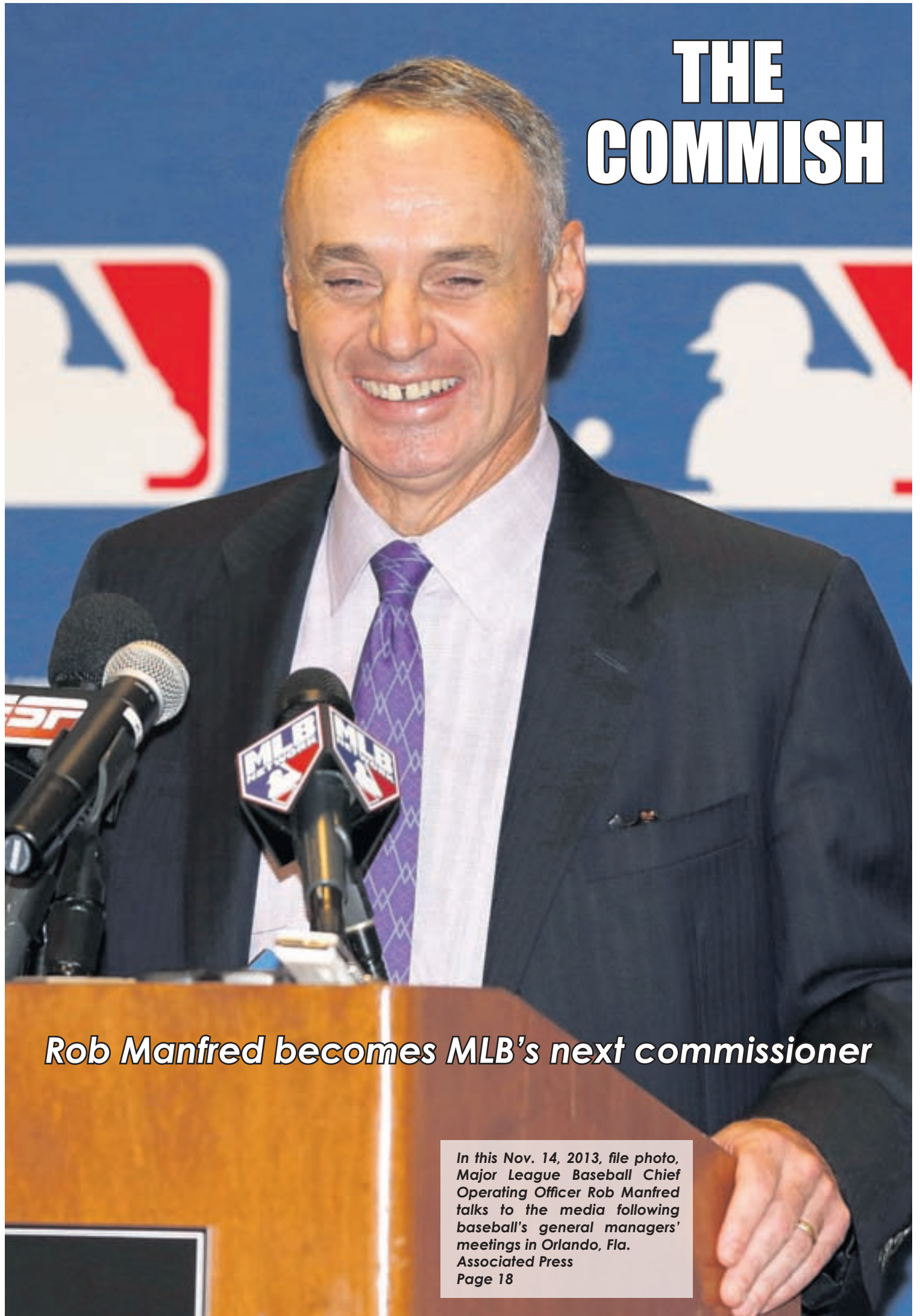
MASON, Ohio (AP) — Top-seeded Novak Djokovic was upset by Tommy Robredo 7-6 (6), 7-5, in the round of 16 at the Western & Southern Open on Thursday.

The 16th-seeded Spaniard beat a top-ranked player for the second time in his career. The first time, he edged Lleyton Hewitt in the 2003 French Open.

"When I finish my career, and when I will be sitting at home and talking with friends, I will remember days like this," Robredo said.

Djokovic, who has never won the tournament, dropped the first set after fighting back from a 6-3 deficit in the tiebreaker. Robredo took the set with an ace that Djokovic challenged. The replay showed the ball caught the slimiest sliver of the line.

Continued on page 19



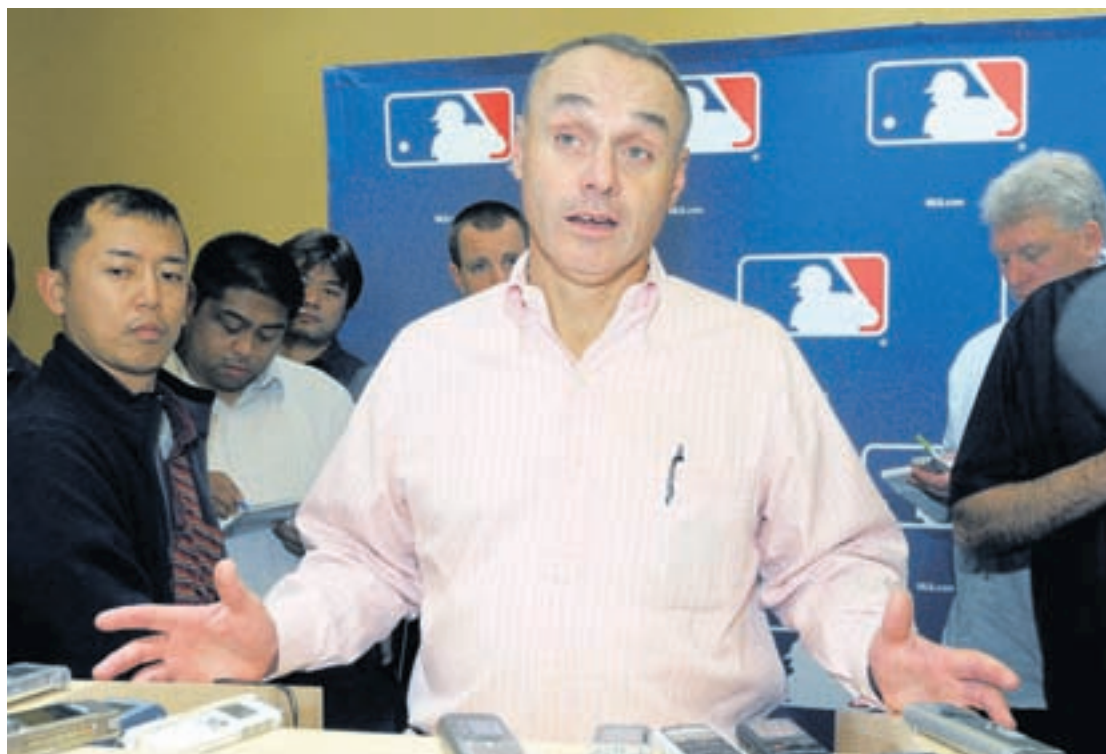
Rob Manfred becomes MLB's next commissioner

In this Nov. 14, 2013, file photo, Major League Baseball Chief Operating Officer Rob Manfred talks to the media following baseball's general managers' meetings in Orlando, Fla.
Associated Press
Page 18

Manfred elected next MLB commissioner

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) -- Rob Manfred was elected baseball's 10th commissioner Thursday and will succeed Bud Selig in January. A labor lawyer who has worked for Major League Baseball since 1998, Manfred beat out Boston Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner in the first contested vote for a new commissioner in 46 years. The third candidate, MLB Executive Vice President of Business Tim Brosnan, dropped out just before the start of voting. The 55-year-old Manfred, who grew up in Rome, New York - about an hour's drive from the Hall of Fame - must address issues that include decreased interest in baseball among



In this Nov. 16, 2010 file photo, Rob Manfred, Major League Baseball executive vice president for labor relations, talks to reporters during the meeting of baseball's general managers in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

yer with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius who assisted in collective bargaining. He became MLB's executive vice president for labor relations and human resources in 1998, received an expanded role of executive vice president of economics and league affairs in 2012 and last September was promoted to chief operating officer. He helped lead negotiations for baseball's last three labor contracts with players and the joint drug agreement that was instituted in 2002 and has been repeatedly strengthened. Werner, 64, was the controlling owner of the San Diego Padres from 1990-94, triggering fan criticism for the payroll-paring departures of Fred McGriff, Gary Sheffield, Tony Fernandez, Randy Myers and Benito Santiago. He has been part of the Red Sox ownership group since 2002, a period that included three World Series titles. While working at ABC, he helped develop Robin Williams' "Mork & Mindy" and later was executive producer of "The Cosby Show" and "Roseanne" at The Carsey-Werner Co. MLB's last contested election for commissioner was after Spike Eckert was fired in December 1968. With the requirement then a three-quarters majority in both the American and National leagues, teams split between San Francisco Giants vice president Chub Feeney and Yankees president Michael Burke and failed to elect anyone during 19 ballots. Bowie Kuhn, counsel to baseball's Player Relations Committee, was elected commissioner pro-tem on Feb. 4, 1969, with a one-year term. He was voted a seven-year term that August and remained in office until October 1984, when he was replaced by Los Angeles Olympics head Peter Ueberroth. Former Yale President A. Bartlett Giamatti took over from Ueberroth in April 1989, died later that September and was replaced by his deputy commissioner, Fay Vincent. □

Associated Press

younger people and longer games. He has served as MLB's chief operating officer for the past year. Selig turned 80 last month and has ruled baseball since September 1992, when he was among the owners who forced Commissioner Fay Vincent's resignation. He said he intends to retire in January. Manfred fell one vote shy of the 23 out of 30 owners needed in the first ballot earlier Thursday. On the second ballot, he won unanimously, several owners confirmed. Each candidate spoke to owners for about an hour Wednesday and met in sessions Thursday morning with groups of 10 teams. Werner was supported by Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf and Los Angeles Angels owner Arte Moreno. Other teams have said Reinsdorf wanted a commissioner who would take a harsher stance in labor negotiations. Selig is the second-longest-serving head of baseball behind Kenesaw Mountain Landis (1920-44). The trio of candidates was picked by a seven-man succession committee chaired by St. Louis Cardinals chairman Bill DeWitt Jr. Manfred has been involved in baseball since 1987, starting as a law-

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Cincy tennis

Continued from page 17

Robredo failed to convert two match points before completing the victory with a slam on Djokovic's short lob.

"It's disappointing that I'm finishing Cincinnati again with a tough loss, but it's the sport," said Djokovic, who lost in the third round at Toronto last week. "I didn't play well in Toronto, didn't play well here. Hopefully, it's going to be different in New York (at the U.S. Open)." Robredo had lost six straight matches against the Serb after winning their first encounter. "I knew that if I wanted to win I had to go for it, and try to hope that he will not play his best match," Robredo said. "Both things happen and then I could win." Earlier, Andy Murray fought off two late match points and edged John Isner of the U.S. 7-6 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (2) to reach the quarterfinals.

Isner, who lost to Rafael Nadal in last year's final, had two chances to win the match with a 6-5 lead in the third set, but Murray salvaged both points before taking control with a mini-break for a 3-1 lead in the tiebreaker.

Stan Wawrinka shook off losing the first set to roll through the next two and advance with a 3-6, 6-0, 6-1 win over Marin Cilic of Croatia. Wawrinka, the Australian Open champion, will meet unseeded Julien Benneteau of France in the quarterfinals.

Benneteau eliminated Jerzy Janowicz of Poland 7-5, 6-1. Fabio Fognini of Italy also needed three sets to get past Yen-Hsun Lu of Taiwan 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, and Milos Ranoic of Canada held off wild card Steve Johnson of the U.S. 6-7 (6), 6-3, 7-6 (4). In women's play, top-seeded Serena Williams continued her pursuit of her first title in this tournament with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Flavia Pennetta. Williams immediately took command, breaking Pennetta's first serve of the match. Williams, who's never won this tournament, also led, 5-0, in the second set.

"I got the early break, and I didn't let go," she said.

"That's what I wanted to do. She can try and come back. She tried to come back, I wanted to stay focused." Simona Halep of Romania also reached the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic, but Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain was upset by unseeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. □



Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, returns a serve against Tommy Robredo, from Spain, during a match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

Weekly
Calendar

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TRIPLE THE POINTS

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Raffle will start from 8:00pm

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Prize 2 - \$200
Prize 3 - \$150
Prize 4 - \$100
Registration starts at 6:00pm - Tournament starts at 8:00pm

FRIDAY

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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Spin at 9.00 pm, 9.30pm 10.00pm, 10.30 pm and 11.00 pm

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Controversial call helps Giants top White Sox, 7-1

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The Giants scored seven runs in the seventh inning after a video review led umpires to overturn an out call at home because Chicago catcher Tyler Flowers illegally blocked Gregor Blanco, and San Francisco went on to beat the White Sox 7-1 on Wednesday.

With out in the seventh, Chicago first baseman Jose Abreu fielded Joe Panik's broken-bat grounder to easily throw out Blanco. Giants manager Bruce Bochy challenged the play, and umpires ruled Flowers' left leg was illegally blocking the plate before the ball arrived.

White Sox manager Robin Ventura argued the call and was immediately ejected, setting off an epic protest in which he repeatedly kicked dirt on the plate.

San Francisco snapped a five-game losing streak and Jake Peavy (1-3) won for the first time since April 25 with Boston. Peavy had lost 12 consecutive decisions, the longest skid of his career.

Jose Quintana (6-9) took the loss.

PADRES 5, ROCKIES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rymer Liriano's first big league homer was a two-run shot in the fourth inning and Abraham Almonte also went deep to help San Diego tie its season high with five straight wins.

Jedd Gyorko tied his career-high with four hits for the Padres, who are 16-8 since the All-Star break, including winning 11 of 14. The Padres swept a series for the third time this year, all at home.

The Rockies, who have the worst record in the majors



Chicago White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers, right, reaches to tag San Francisco Giants' Gregor Blanco, who was originally ruled out at home but then ruled safe after review, during the seventh inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014.

Associated Press

at 18-44, struck out 13 times against Ian Kennedy (9-10) and Joaquin Benoit, giving them 66 in their last six games.

Liriano was called up from Triple-A El Paso on Monday. His homer off left-hander Tyler Matzek (2-8) went an estimated 427 feet.

CARDINALS 5, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP) — Justin Masterson pitched seven scoreless innings in his best outing since joining St. Louis, which averted a series sweep. Masterson,

acquired in a trade with Cleveland on July 30, allowed three hits — all singles — and no walks and threw only 91 pitches before departing for a pinch hitter.

After recording only six outs

in his previous start, he lowered his ERA to 6.00 in three outings with the Cardinals, and 5.14 overall this year.

The 6-foot-6 right-hander improved to 2-1 with St. Louis and 5-6 overall. He also earned his first career RBI in the sixth with a two-out single.

Nathan Eovaldi (6-7) allowed four runs, two earned, in six innings.

NATIONALS 3, METS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Asdrubal Cabrera hit his first home run for Washington and tumbled over a retaining wall to make a terrific catch, leading the Nationals to their 10th straight victory at Citi Field.

Rafael Soriano held on in the ninth inning following Travis d'Arnaud's leadoff

homer, getting the final two outs after the Mets put a pair of runners in scoring position.

Matt den Dekker was thrown out at home on pinch-hitter Eric Campbell's grounder to shortstop. Curtis Granderson hit a comebacker on the next pitch, giving Soriano his 27th save in 31 tries.

Bryce Harper and Kevin Frandsen each hit a sacrifice fly in the seventh to make a winner of Jordan Zimmermann (8-5).

Coming off his 200th career win last Friday, Mets starter Bartolo Colon (11-10) allowed two runs — one earned — in seven innings.

BRAVES 3, DODGERS 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Ervin Santana won his sixth straight

start at Turner Field, Justin Upton drove in the go-ahead run in the fifth inning and Atlanta won for the third time in 14 games. Andrelton Simmons returned to the lineup after missing six games with a sprained left ankle and had two RBIs for the Braves, who had lost 11 of 13.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (13-6) left the game with an apparent right leg injury after allowing six hits and three runs with two walks and seven strikeouts in 5 2-3 innings.

Santana (12-6) improved to 5-0 with a 2.70 ERA in his last six starts, giving up eight hits, two runs and two walks with nine strikeouts in six innings.

Atlanta closer Craig Kimbrel got the last three outs to earn his 35th save in 39 chances.

CUBS 4, BREWERS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Javier Baez and Anthony Rizzo hit back-to-back home runs as Chicago roughed up Kyle Lohse and Milwaukee. Starlin Castro, Rizzo and Baez, the nucleus of Theo Epstein's rebuilding effort, drove in all four runs against the NL-leading Brewers. Castro and Chris Coghlan contributed three hits each.

Cubs starter Tsuyoshi Wada (2-1) was coasting until he was chased in the seventh, when he allowed consecutive home runs to Rickie Weeks and Martin Maldonado. Wada allowed two runs on five hits in 6 2-3 innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Hector Rondon pitched a scoreless ninth for his 16th save in 20 tries.

Lohse (11-7) allowed four runs on seven hits in three innings, and tweaked his right ankle during at-bat. □

Napoli homer lifts Red Sox to 5-4 win over Reds

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Mike Napoli hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs to help the Boston wrap up its first winning road trip of more than three games this season.

Anthony Ranaudo became the first Boston rookie to start his career 2-0 since Justin Masterson won his first three in 2008 and the Red Sox finished their eight-game trip with five wins. Skip Schumaker and Cincinnati starting pitcher Mike Leake each hit their second home runs of the season, but the Reds still ended their seven-game home stand with a 3-4 record after opening by sweeping a two-game interleague series against in-state rival Cleveland.

Burke Badenhop and Junichi Tazawa each pitched one perfect inning before Edward Mujica overcame back-to-back leadoff singles in the ninth for his third save.

Ranaudo allowed eight hits and four runs with one walk and one strikeout in six innings.

Leake (9-11) lasted five innings.

INDIANS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2, Game 1

DIAMONDBACKS 1, INDIANS 0, Game 2, 12 Innings.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Tuffy Gosewisch's RBI single with one out in the 12th inning gave Arizona a double-header split.

Five Arizona pitchers combined on the shutout as the Diamondbacks avoided a sweep after Cleveland won the opener on Zach Walters' homer in the ninth. Randall Delgado (2-3), the losing pitcher in the first game, pitched the 11th. Addison Reed gave up pinch-hitter Lonnie Chisenhall's two-out double in the 12th, but struck out Jason Kipnis for his 28th save to end the 4-hour, 16-minute game.

Alfredo Marte drew a lead-

off walk from C.C. Lee (0-1) to start the winning rally. After a sacrifice, Gosewisch singled up the middle for the game's only run.

TWINS 3, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Joe Mauer homered to break a scoreless game and Kyle Gibson gave up one run in 7 2-3 innings for Minnesota. Mauer hit a 2-2 pitch into the right field bullpen off Brett Oberholtzer (4-8) to make it 1-0. He extended his hitting streak to 15 games with a first inning single.

Gibson (11-9) scattered six hits, striking out four, and allowing one earned run.

Minnesota extended the lead to 3-0 in the eighth inning when Kennys Vargas hit a two-run single into the left field gap off reliever Josh Fields.

Chris Carter singled in a run for Houston.

Glen Perkins pitched a perfect ninth inning to earn his 30th save.

ROYALS 3, ATHLETICS 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jason Vargas tossed a three-hitter for his sixth career shutout and Omar Infante hit a two-run homer for Kansas City.

Vargas (9-5) retired the final 23 batters he faced in only his third start since an emergency appendectomy. The left-hander also helped Kansas City bounce back from having an eight-game winning streak snapped and maintain a half-game lead over Detroit in the AL Central.

Salvador Perez drove in the Royals' other run off Scott Kazmir (13-5), who lost to Kansas City for the second time in 10 days. He has won just once in 10 starts at Kauffman Stadium.

ORIOLES 5, YANKEES 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Jonathan Schoop and Adam Jones homered in a four-run eighth inning, and Baltimore Orioles rallied to sweep the two-game, rain-shortened series.



Boston Red Sox' Mike Napoli, left, and pitcher Edward Mujica congratulate each other after the Red Sox beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-4 in a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

Limited to three hits through seven innings, Baltimore trailed 2-1 before Schoop tied it with a drive off Delin Betances. Shawn Kelley (2-4) then gave up a single and a walk before Jones hit a shot into the bullpen area beyond the center-field wall.

As the ball dropped over the fence for his 23rd home run, Jones raised his right arm in triumph as he rounded first base.

Darren O'Day (4-1) worked the eighth and Zach Britton gave up a run in the ninth en route to his 25th save.

It was the eighth straight series win for the AL East-leading Orioles, who increased their margin over the fading third-place Yankees to eight games.

RAYS 10, RANGERS 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Chris Archer had a career-high 12 strikeouts in seven innings and Matt Joyce hit the first of Tampa Bay's three early home runs.

Archer (8-6) had his only two walks in the first three batters he faced. But the hard-throwing right-hander got out of the inning when Alex Rios went down swinging, the first of six consecutive Rangers he struck out.

It was Archer's third career game with at least 10 strikeouts, and two have come against the Rangers. He struck out 11 against Texas in a home game on Sept. 8, 2012, in his third career start.

Joyce homered in the first, an inning before Sean Rodriguez and Brandon Guyer hit two-run shots off righty Miles Mikolas (1-5).

TIGERS 8, PIRATES 4

DETROIT (AP) — Nick Castellanos homered and tripled, and Detroit rallied to snap a four-game losing streak. The Tigers, who are suddenly facing adversity amid mounting injuries, rallied from a 4-1 deficit on a night when they had to send Buck Farmer to the mound to make his major league debut.

Farmer allowed four runs in five innings, and Blaine Hardy (2-1) followed with two scoreless innings of relief.

Castellanos put Detroit ahead 5-4 with a solo homer off Vance Worley (5-2) in the sixth. Victor Martinez added a two-run single in the seventh.

MARINERS 2, BLUE JAYS 0

SEATTLE (AP) — Kendrys Morales hit a two-run home run in the first inning and starter Hisashi Iwakuma pitched into the seventh to help Seattle complete a three-game sweep.

Morales' homer was his second in three at-bats, a span that started Tuesday night.

Iwakuma (11-6) failed to finish seven innings for the first time in eight starts, but the right-hander still struck out five without issuing a walk in 6 2-3 innings.

Three relievers bridged the gap to closer Fernando

Rodney, who earned his 35th save in 38 chances. The Mariners won eight of nine on their homestand and remained tied with Detroit for the American League's second wild card. R.A. Dickey (9-12) was shaky at times, but only allowed two runs and seven hits with four walks in six innings.

ANGELS 4, PHILLIES 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Howie Kendrick delivered a go-ahead, two-run single in the sixth inning, and Jered Weaver pitched six resilient innings for Los Angeles.

Brennan Boesch drove in two runs for the Angels, who salvaged a 3-4 homestand by sweeping a two-game series from the last-place Phillies. Los Angeles (70-49) pulled within 2 1/2 games of Oakland atop the overall major league standings. Marlon Byrd and Jimmy Rollins had early run-scoring singles for the Phillies, who have lost nine straight games to the Angels since 2003.

Weaver (13-7) yielded two runs and eight hits for the Angels, improving to 6-1 in his last 10 starts. The longtime Los Angeles ace pitched two days after the birth of his second child, daughter Josie.

One night after Los Angeles scored seven runs in the sixth, it scored three more against A.J. Burnett (6-13), who had shut down the Angels in the first five. □

American football heading to China in 2015

ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Hey, China: Are you ready for some American football? The China American Football League plans to begin in the world's most populous country in 2015. The announcement Thursday comes less than a year after Marty Judge, co-owner of the Arena Football League's Philadelphia Soul, sponsored the first American football game in China.

The indoor league is expected to start with six to eight teams. The franchises will be in major Chinese cities and feature American and Chinese players.

Judge said they'll follow Arena league rules and have 20-man rosters that will include 12 Chinese players. Many AFL players, coaches and referees are expected to participate in the CAFL, which will start in the fall after the AFL season ends. Judge already set up coach/referee camps at six sports universities around China in 2013. "They really don't have contact sports there," said Judge, who replaced



In this Jan. 18, 2013, photo photo provided by the NFLPA, coach Dick Vermeil talks with his players during the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl National team practice in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

rockers Jon Bon Jovi as the Soul's owner. "The Chinese government loved the idea, appreciate the work we've put it in and that's why it got approval."

Former Super Bowl-winning coach Dick Vermeil and

former Pro Bowl quarterback Ron Jaworski partnered with Judge to help make it happen. Jaworski traveled with Judge to China and gained approval from the Chinese government to introduce com-

and to do it with the cooperation of the Chinese government," said Jaworski, an ESPN analyst who helped the Philadelphia Eagles win the NFC championship in 1980. "I strongly believe American football will meet the insatiable sports demand from the Chinese growing consumer base, especially among the younger people."

CAFL franchise owners will invest \$10 million to start. Judge is still working on a television deal in China to broadcast the game and owners will receive a portion of licensing rights.

"It is possible that someday the CAFL could be bigger in China than the NFL is here," said Judge, who envisions a 30-team league throughout China and eventually through Asia and Australia.

"With the backing of the Chinese government, the

Redskins appeal trademark decision on team name



This Aug. 7, 2014 file photo shows groundskeepers preparing the end zone for the NFL football preseason game between the Washington Redskins and the New England Patriots in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

ASHBURN, Virginia (AP) The Washington Redskins have appealed a decision that stripped them of trade-

mark protection, the latest legal maneuver in the NFL franchise's attempt to defend its name against

those who consider it a racial slur.

The team announced on Thursday it filed an appeal in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ruled in June that the Redskins' name was "disparaging of Native Americans," and the team should lose its trademark protection.

The team immediately announced it would appeal the ruling and had two months to do so.

The trademark protection remains in place while the matter makes its way through the courts. A similar ruling in 1999 was overturned on a technicality in 2003.



petitive football to about 1.4 billion people.

"This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring our great sport to China,

sky is the limit for how we can grow American football in the vast, untapped Chinese marketplace," he said.

Boston Marathon boasts 3rd largest field in 2015

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Athletic Association says it will accept 30,000 entrants for the Boston Marathon next year, the third largest field in the race's 119-year history. The marathon had more than 38,700 entrants for the centennial run in 1996, and 36,000 this year, the first race since two pressure cooker bombs placed at the finish line killed three people and injured more than 260 in 2013. From 2009 to 2013, the field size was 27,000.

The BAA, which runs the marathon, announced on Thursday it will use the same process to register qualified runners as it has used for the last three years, allowing the fastest qualifiers in their gender and age group to register first. Registration starts online on Sept. 8.

Next year's race is scheduled for April 20.

Amazon debuts mobile payment app and card reader

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is taking direct aim at mobile payment systems such as Square by introducing the Amazon Local Register, a credit-card processing device and mobile app designed to help small business owners accept payments through their smartphones and tablets. The move places the largest U.S. e-commerce retailer in competition with Square and other established mobile payment processing systems such as PayPal Here and Intuit's GoPayment.

Amazon's technology includes a card reader that attaches to a smartphone, Kindle or tablet. The reader processes credit or debit card payments via a secure Amazon network, the same one that processes Amazon.com purchases. The service is designed to serve on-the-go small business owners who might otherwise only accept cash or checks, including massage therapists, food truck operators and artists who sell their work at outdoor fairs. Small businesses can start using Local Register by creating an account on <http://localregister.amazon.com>. Businesses must buy Amazon's card reader for \$10, and download the free mobile app from the Amazon app store, the Apple app store or Google Play. The app works on most smartphones and tablets, including the Kindle Fire.

Similar to Amazon's strategy in many of its businesses, the company aims to compete on price in the mobile payment arena. For customers who sign up for the service by Oct. 31, Amazon will take as its fee 1.75 percent of each payment processed, or each "swipe" of the card, a special rate that will last until Jan. 1, 2016. For people who sign up after Oct. 31, Amazon will take a service fee of 2.5 percent of each payment processed.

The first \$10 in transaction fees will be credited back to the customer, essentially paying for the card reader.



This product image provided by Amazon shows Amazon Local Register, the company's new credit-card processing device and mobile app designed to help small business owners accept payments through their smartphones and tablets.

Associated Press

That's below most of its competitors' rates. Square takes a fee of 2.75 percent of each transaction. PayPal Here takes 2.7 percent of each transaction and Intuit's GoPayment rates start at 1.75 percent per transaction if businesses pay a \$19.95 monthly rate or 2.4 percent of each transaction without a monthly payment.

"I've actually heard some business owners say the

only thing that would make them change (point of sale) systems is cost savings," said Matt Swann, vice president of local commerce for Amazon.

"Payments are hard and that's one of the things that gets in the way of serving customers, especially for small businesses," Swann said. "Payment tools need to be inexpensive, simple and trusted to get the job done."

Amazon is entering the mobile payment space as the industry continues its rapid growth. IDC estimates that mobile payments could top a trillion dollars globally within the next five years. That includes all forms of mobile payments, such as items purchased online via a phone or tablet, fund transfers and items bought using a mobile gadget as a payment-accepting device.

It's difficult to isolate the exact portion of that market represented by point-of-sale mobile commerce, since the biggest player, Square, is private and doesn't divulge sales. Also, PayPal doesn't break out specific revenue from its Here product.

Baird Equity analyst Colin Sebastian said Amazon's move was partly expected since the company bought mobile payment company GoPago in 2013.

"The announcement suggests the lines between commerce and payment platforms continue to blur, and we still anticipate other large technology players (like Google and Apple) to expand their own existing payment initiatives, including in-store point-of-sale services."

Local Register is part of a slew of new products and services that Seattle-based Amazon has introduced this year. The company's Fire smartphone debuted this month. In April, it began selling the Fire TV, a media streaming device. Meanwhile, Amazon is expanding its same-day delivery service and offering grocery delivery and video and music streaming for its Prime loyalty club members. □

Berlin taxi drivers hail city's Uber ban

BERLIN (AP) - Berlin taxi drivers were celebrating Thursday after authorities banned the ridesharing service Uber from operating in the city because of safety concerns. In a decree Wednesday, Berlin authorities said they wouldn't tolerate Uber putting customers at risk by allowing them to ride in cars that hadn't been checked, and with drivers who weren't vetted or properly insured.

The argument echoes that of established cab companies who claim Uber's app-based services, which offer limousines and pickups by private drivers, dodge rules that ordinary taxi firms have to abide by. "I've got no problem with anyone who plays by the same

rules as everyone else and shows that they can do it better," said Richard Leipold, head of the Berlin Taxi Association. "There are plenty of apps on the market in Berlin that do just that." Fabien Nestmann, general manager for Uber Germany, said the company intends to challenge the ban. Berlin's decision "is not progressive and it's seeking to limit consumer choice for all the wrong reasons," Nestmann said. "As a new entrant we're bringing much-needed competition to a market that hasn't changed in years." The San Francisco-based company, which has received financial backing from Google, said it remains open to dialogue with authorities and rivals.



In this June 11, 2014 file photo taxi drivers gather after a protest drive against the competition from Internet and mobile applications designed for calling cabs in Berlin, Germany.

Associated Press

Wednesday's ban, which comes with the threat of a 25,000-euro (\$33,400) fine for non-compliance, follows a separate Berlin court ruling in April that Uber's limousine service

breaks the law. The Berlin Taxi Association, which had brought the case, didn't ask the court to enforce that ban because it wanted to wait for possible appeals, Leipold said. □

GE in talks to sell historic appliance division

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — General Electric confirmed that it is considering the sale of its historic appliance division, part of its effort to focus on selling more complex and profitable industrial equipment. The confirmation came after the Swedish appliance maker Electrolux released a statement Thursday that

it was in discussions to buy the business from GE, which is based in Fairfield, Connecticut. "GE is evaluating a wide range of strategic options for our appliances business, including discussions with Electrolux and other interested parties," said GE spokesman Seth Martin. General Electric Co. has said it plans to sell businesses worth about \$4 billion

this year. The company's appliance division — maker of the first electric toaster more than a century ago — has been thought to be a candidate for sale. GE's appliance division, which includes a much smaller lighting business that is not being discussed as part of this transaction, earned \$381 million on \$8.3 billion in sales last year, for a profit margin of

4.6 percent. The company's industrial division as a whole earned \$16.2 billion on sales of \$103.6 billion, for a far more robust margin of 15.7 percent. GE appliances are sold mostly in the U.S., making it difficult to compete with more global competitors such as LG and Samsung, which have been expanding into the U.S. in recent years.

GE spun off its consumer credit card division late last month, it sold NBC Universal last year, and it is gradually shrinking its large financial division as part of its recent strategy to concentrate on building and servicing large equipment such as aircraft engines, gas-fired turbines, medical imaging machines and oil and gas drilling equipment. □

Wall Street creeps higher following earnings news

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Better corporate earnings helped nudge the stock market up on Thursday in one of the quietest sessions this year. Health-care companies led the major indexes to slight gains, while Berkshire Hathaway crossed another milestone, trading above \$200,000 a share for the first time. With many who work in the markets on vacation, trading volume on the New York Stock Exchange thinned out: just 2.6 billion shares on Thursday. An average day this year is nearly 1 billion higher. Stronger profits for Perrigo, a drugmaker, drove its stock up 7 percent, the biggest gain in the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Perrigo jumped \$10.14 to end at \$149.29. Another drugmaker, Merck, gained 93 cents, or 2 percent, to \$58.78 following news that it won federal approval for a new sleeping pill.

The S&P 500 climbed up 8.46 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 1,955.18. Health care companies led nine of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 up. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 61.78 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,713.58 while the Nasdaq composite climbed 18.88 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,453.00. Markets often slip into a summertime lull in August. Trading desks remain short-staffed until people return from vacation after the Labor Day holiday. Without any major developments, trading volume usually dries up and stock indexes turn sleepy, as if stuck in their beach chairs. The S&P 500 is still hovering near record highs, leading some analysts to fret that the market looks too expensive. Lawrence Creatura, a fund manager at Federated Investors, argued that the solid second-quarter earnings season, which is nearly wrapped up, should put in-



Traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Better corporate earnings helped nudge the stock market up on Thursday in one of the quietest sessions this year.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

vestors' worries about high prices to rest. The S&P 500, for instance, has gained nearly 6 percent this year. "That's an interesting number: 6 percent just happens to be the average earnings growth rate over the very

long term," he said. In Thursday trading, the Class A shares of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate crossed the \$200,000 mark, making the highest-priced U.S. stock even more expensive. Buffett has never

split Berkshire's A shares to make them cheaper, although Berkshire created more affordable Class B shares, which closed Thursday at \$135.30. Berkshire's Class A shares rose \$3,241, or 2 percent, to end at \$202,850. □

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway stock tops \$200k

JOSH FUNK
AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Naysayers have been calling shares of Warren Buffett's company overpriced for decades. But Berkshire Hathaway Class A stock, which first topped \$1,000 in 1983, on Thursday surpassed \$200,000. "Everybody has now been proven wrong on it," said Andy Kilpatrick, who wrote "Of Permanent Value: The Story of Warren Buffett."

Berkshire has long had the most expensive U.S. stock. Buffett never split Berkshire's A shares, although he did create more affordable Class B shares in 1996 that now sell for nearly \$135. The stock has had its ups and downs. The Class A shares first hit six figures in October 2006 and peaked at \$151,650 in December 2007, when the Great Recession began. They fell as low as \$70,050 in March 2009.

On Thursday, they reached an all-time high of \$202,454.99. Berkshire Hathaway has come a long way since Buffett's investment partnership started buying shares for \$7 and \$8 apiece in 1962. At that point, Berkshire was a New England textile company. After 1969, Berkshire became Buffett's investment vehicle and he used revenue from the textile firm to begin buying other companies such as National

Indemnity insurance and See's Candy. Today, many of its more than 80 subsidiaries, which include insurance, utility, railroad and other businesses, are performing well. Berkshire employs more than 330,000 people and also has major investments in companies including Coca-Cola Co., IBM and Wells Fargo & Co. And Berkshire has more than \$55 billion cash on hand that could be used for acquisitions. Earlier this

month, the Omaha-based company reported second-quarter profit of \$6.4 billion, or \$3,889 per Class A share. "It is indeed a remarkable run," Kilpatrick said. Berkshire appears primed to continue growing, even if it will likely be at a slower rate than in the past because of the conglomerate's huge size. Buffett, who is turning 84 later this month, has amassed a fortune worth more than \$65 billion from his Berkshire shares. □

Royal Dutch Shell selling shale gas drill rights for \$2B

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

Royal Dutch Shell has agreed to sell drilling rights in shale formations in Louisiana and Wyoming for \$2.1 billion in two transactions. In one of the deals, announced Thursday, Shell will also receive drilling rights to land in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Shell is working to focus its onshore U.S. drilling program on a few of the more prolific formations in an effort to boost profitability. The company wrote down the value of its shale acreage in the U.S. by \$2.1 billion last year amid lower natural gas prices.

Shell will sell its Pinedale acreage in Wyoming to Ultra Petroleum for \$925 million and 155,000 acres in the Utica and Marcellus shale formations in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

It will sell its Haynesville acreage in Louisiana to Vine Oil & Gas and the investment firm Blackstone for \$1.2 billion.

Shell and other major oil and gas explorers regularly sell rights to fields where production is flat or declining. They then use that cash to fund exploration programs designed to discover new or more prolific fields that oil giants need to fuel growth. The Pinedale and Haynesville formations produce dry gas, which is less profitable than oil or so-called natural gas liquids, at relatively moderate rates.

The Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania has proven to be an extraordinarily prolific dry gas producer, and profitable for drillers because it produces gas at high rates per well. The Energy Department says the formation will produce an average of 15.9 billion cubic feet of gas per day in September, nearly a quarter of total U.S. production.

Ohio's Utica shale is also proving to be prolific, and it includes a higher proportion of more profitable liquid hydrocarbons. □

Wal-Mart cuts profit outlook on sluggish sales

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. cut its annual profit outlook on Thursday as the world's largest retailer faced another quarter of sluggish sales and traffic declines. Wal-Mart eked out a 0.6 percent increase in second-quarter profit and reported that a key revenue measure was flat in its U.S. discount business, after falling for five straight quarters. The company also reported its seventh straight quarter of traffic declines at its U.S. Wal-Mart stores. The results show the continued challenges facing Wal-Mart's new management team. Doug McMillon, who was head of the company's international division, took over the company as CEO on Feb. 1.

Last month, he named Greg Foran, who was the CEO of Wal-Mart's China business as the head of Wal-Mart's U.S. discount business, which accounts for 60 percent of the company's revenue. Foran, who started his new job earlier this month, replaced Bill Simon, who had held the position since 2010.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based company is facing challenges from a slowly recovering economy and fierce competition from the likes of online king Amazon.com, dollar stores and gro-

cers. It's also dealing with a shift among shoppers seeking the convenience of small stores or buying on their mobile devices and PCs.

Wal-Mart's low-income shoppers, who on average make \$45,000 a year, were squeezed by the recession that began at the end of

to spend.

Analysts believe that competition will get even more intense heading into the final months of the year. Amazon.com is beefing up its services, like recently expanding its same-day delivery. Meanwhile, rival Target Corp. is stepping up its promotions as it aims to

Markets and Wal-Mart Express smaller stores that cater to shoppers looking for more convenience with fresh produce, meat and household and beauty products.

In fact, revenue at its Neighborhood Markets rose 5.6 percent during the second quarter, and cus-



Mary Bullen, merchandise supervisor of the infant and girls section, makes price changes to clothing at the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Rogers, Ark. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reported mixed quarterly financial results after the market closes on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Sarah Benthall)

2007 and have struggled to recover since it ended in 2009. While the job and housing markets are rebounding, Wal-Mart's low-income shoppers have not benefited and continue to struggle to stretch their money between paychecks.

Wal-Mart also said Thursday that the Nov. 1, 2013, expiration of a temporary boost in food stamps is still hurting its shoppers' ability

turn around its weak business after being stung by a major data breach.

A bigger Dollar Tree also could put more pressure on Wal-Mart. The dollar-store chain announced last month that it's buying rival Family Dollar for \$8.5 billion, significantly broadening its reach.

In February, Wal-Mart announced that it will more than double its expansion plans for its Neighborhood

tomer traffic rose 4.1 percent.

Wal-Mart has also vowed it will be move more quickly to bring e-commerce together with physical stores to better serve shoppers. That means testing same-day grocery delivery in several markets and rebuilding its e-commerce operation to further personalize the online shopping experience of each customer. □

Lenovo profit up 23 percent on mobile growth

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Lenovo Group, the world's biggest personal computer maker, said Thursday its latest quarterly profit rose 23 percent on strong growth in sales of smartphones and other mobile devices.

The company said it earned \$214 million, or \$2.06 per share, in the three months ended June 30. Global revenue rose 18 percent to \$10.4 billion.

Sales of mobile devices rose 32 percent over a year earlier to \$1.6 billion. The company is investing heav-

ily in smartphones, tablet computers and other wireless devices, and has said it expects mobile sales to be the bulk of its future revenue.

Lenovo, based in Beijing and in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, expanded its market presence by acquiring part of IBM Corp.'s server business in January for \$2.3 billion. A week later, it bought the Motorola Mobility smartphone business from Google Inc. for \$2.9 billion. With those acquisitions and the recovery of the PC market, "we see even more

opportunity to keep growing rapidly," said chairman Yang Yuanqing in a statement.

Sales of Lenovo's traditional desktop PCs rose 20 percent to \$3 billion, accounting for 29 percent of total revenue. The company said shipments rose 12.1 percent over a year earlier, compared with an industry average of 2.4 percent.

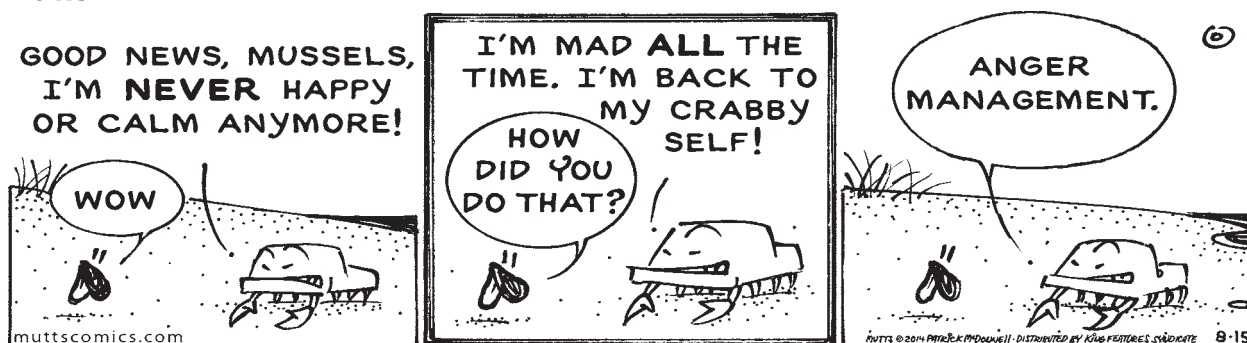
"We believe Lenovo's PC business will remain solid given the better global PC outlook. We expect Lenovo to continue to gain market share," said Kirk Yang and Ric Cheng of Barclays in

a report. "Its smartphone shipment momentum is likely to pick up."

Still, they cautioned that Lenovo's strength in its home China market, where it has experience and strong distributor relationships, "is not easily replicated" abroad.

Revenue in China rose 2 percent to \$3.8 billion, or 36 percent of the total. Revenue in the United States and the rest of the Americas rose 19 percent to \$2.2 billion while combined revenue for Europe, the Middle East and Africa rose 27 percent to \$2.8 billion. □

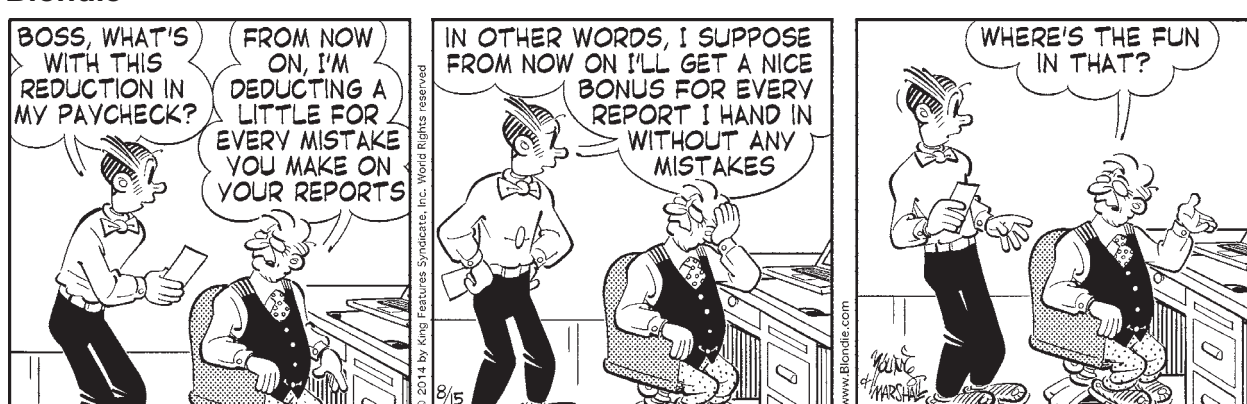
Mutts



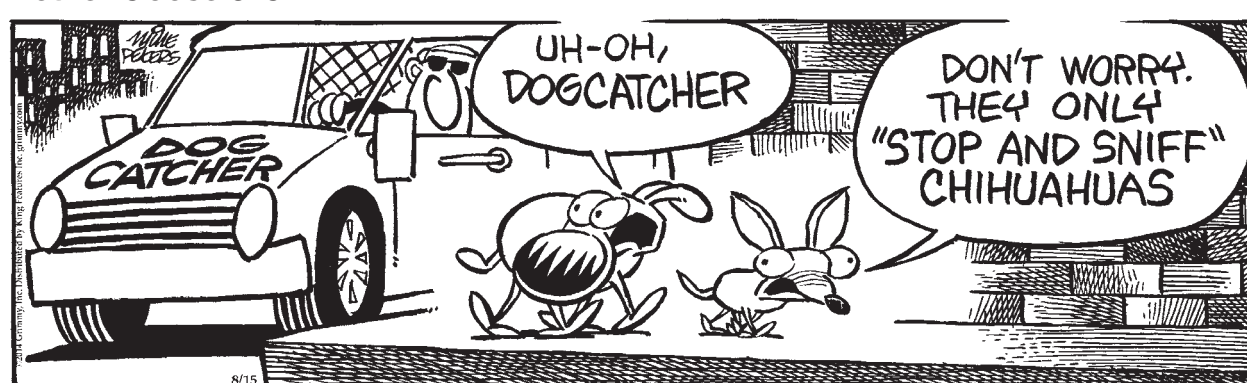
6 Chix



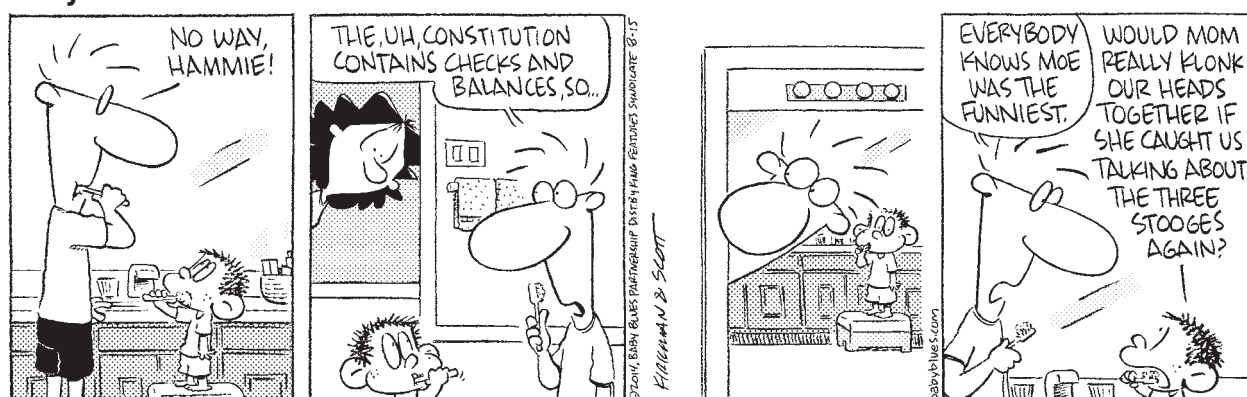
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6	8	9		4	
	1					5		
			5				7	
3	7		9					
	8		4		1			
			6		4	2		
7				8				
	2						9	
8		1	7	6				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	5	4	8	7	9	2	3	6
6	8	9	5	2	3	4	1	7
2	7	3	4	6	1	8	9	5
8	3	1	2	5	6	7	4	9
9	2	6	7	3	4	5	8	1
5	4	7	9	1	8	6	2	3
4	1	5	6	9	2	3	7	8
3	6	2	1	8	7	9	5	4
7	9	8	3	4	5	1	6	2

ACROSS

- Get too dramatic
- Small fastener
- Cradle rocker, often
- Storm and Sayers
- Greasy
- Middle __; historical period
- Magnificent
- __-and-shut case
- Gull's cousin
- Sections
- Get even for
- Gabor and Longoria
- More intelligent
- Bicycle built for two
- Prickle on a rosebush
- Geisha's sash
- Striped animal
- Pleasure boat
- Swallow hard
- Cow farm
- Feast at which a pig is roasted
- __ from; rob
- Erie & Superior
- Curved bone
- Written slander
- Cruise ships
- Number 1 foe
- Escape
- Goings-on
- Old TV game show hosted by Allen Ludden
- Window glass
- Q-tip, for one
- Giggie's sound
- Tallies up
- __ Grey tea
- Flu variety
- More or __
- Little child
- Tale

DOWN

- Basketful from the henhouse
- Female horse
- Designer __ Cassini
- __ up; joined forces
- Actor Emilio __
- Soldier's shoes
- Tears
- Beer's cousin
- Energetic one
- __ grandfather; mother's dad
- Representative
- Come together
- Portrayer of TV's Lou Grant
- __ names; identified the guilty
- Fluctuate
- Deadly fish
- Clothing
- Border on
- Cairo's river
- Dry run
- Bundles of hay
- Remedy
- Head covering
- Bathroom features
- Lack of color in the cheeks

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24					25							
26	27	28			29							
30			31		32			33	34	35	36	
37		38		39			40		41			
42			43		44			45	46			
47			48				49		50			
51	52	53				54						
55					56				57	58	59	
60				61	62			63				
64				65				66				
67				68				69				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/15/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

BEG	JERKS	RACE
OBIT	ARENA	AYER
ABLE	CRITER	BILL
SLACKENED	IDLE	
ROAD	IRE	
ASWIRL	PUNISHES	
OPINE	POSED	ARE
RING	LIKES	STOW
TEE	AILED	SUEDE
ASSISTED	GILDED	
MAE	RINK	
PROP	REMARKING	
HAVE	AVOID	LOOM
ICED	TEASE	YORE
LYRE	ENTER	KEN

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8/15/14

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 40 Hollers | 53 Repairs |
| 43 Shopper's piece of paper | 54 One of many told by Aesop |
| 45 Afternoon naps | 56 Yosemite National __ |
| 48 Actress Jacqueline __ | 57 Sandusky, __ |
| 50 Most modern | 58 Raise, as kids |
| 51 Asian nation | 59 Declare untrue |
| 52 Sidestep | 62 "No __, José!" |

Race

Continued from Page 3

that an officer encountered Brown and another man on the street, and one of the men assaulted the officer and struggled with him over his weapon. During the struggle, which spilled onto the street, Brown was shot multiple times, according to police. But a man who says he was with Brown during the shooting has told a much different account. Dorian Johnson says the officer grabbed his friend's neck, then tried to pull him into the car before brandishing his weapon and firing. Johnson and another witness both say Brown was on the street with his hands raised when the officer fired at him repeatedly. Obama's carefully worded statement reflected the lack of clarity about what happened. He urged police to be "open and transparent" as the investigation unfolds, but made no judgments about what led to Brown's death.

Obama avoided mentioning race in his statement, and he called on people to "remember that we're all part of one American family." The president's approach stood in contrast to his initial handling of the 2009 arrest of his friend Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates. Obama declared during a White House news conference that a white police officer had acted "stupidly" in arresting Gates outside his home. Obama conceded days later that his own remarks had inflamed the situation and that Gates had probably overreacted in the moment, contributing to his arrest.

The incident was a searing one for a new president and his team, trying to navigate a black president's role in sensitive racial matters. Throughout the remainder of his first term, Obama largely steered clear of controversial discussions of race, at times irking African-American leaders who wanted to see him take a more active role in racial issues. □

Classifieds

Concierge Realty



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

GOLD Season
Oceanside \$9900
Oceanview \$9k
Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17k
PLATINUM Season
Oceanview \$16k
Oceanside \$17500
Oceanfront \$27,500
3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51
OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV
\$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season
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2B Oceanfront \$14500
1B Oceanfront \$8500
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\$695 sale \$ 2900 sleeps 4
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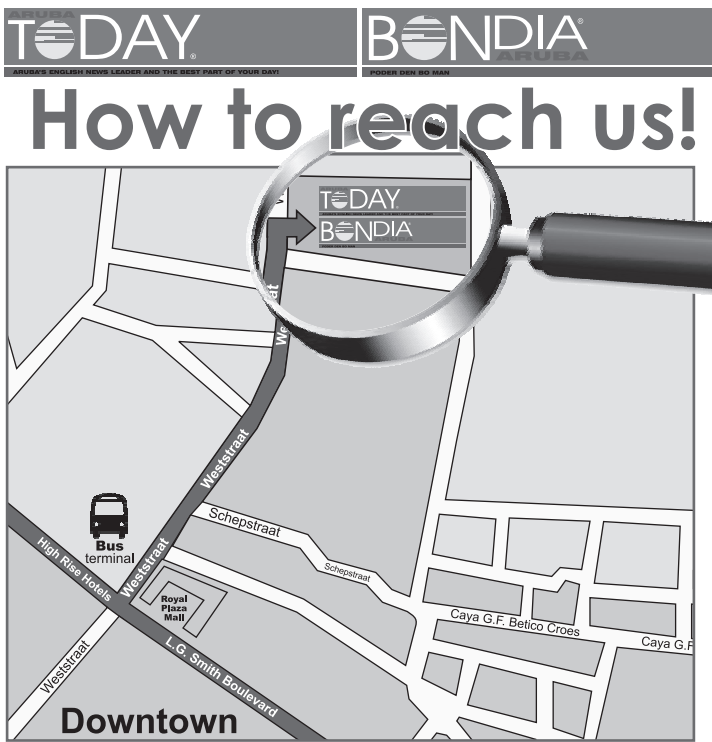
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Dr. Wever

**EMERGENCIA
911**



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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San Nicolas: Seroe Preto Tel: 584-4833

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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August 18
Monarch



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American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
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Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 / 586-6976

Women in Difficulties Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

U.S. study questions need for most to cut salt

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

A large international study questions the conventional wisdom that most people should cut back on salt, suggesting that the amount most folks consume is OK for heart health — and too little may be as bad as too much. The findings came under immediate attack by other scientists.

Limiting salt is still important for people with high blood pressure — and in fact, a second study estimates that too much sodium contributes to up to 1.65 million deaths each year. The studies both have strengths and weaknesses, and come as the U.S. government is preparing to nudge industry to trim sodium in processed and restaurant foods.

The first study's leader, Dr. Salim Yusuf of McMaster University's Population Health Research Institute in Hamilton, Ontario, urged keeping an open mind.

"There are those who have made a career out of promoting extreme sodium reduction that will attack us," he said. It's better to focus on healthy lifestyles and overall diets instead of a single element, "and that is something everyone can rally around."

No one should view this as permission to eat more salt, he said, adding that "most people should stay where they are."

The studies are in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Yusuf's is observational, rather than a strict experiment, and has big limitations in its methods. But its size lends strength — more than 100,000 people in 17



In this Feb. 7 2012 file photo, an employee holds packets of salt at a market in Cleveland.

Associated Press

countries, the largest on this topic. It's also from a general population, not just people at high risk of heart disease, as many past studies have been. Researchers found:

—Sodium levels generally correlate with the risk of high blood pressure. But this link is strongest when sodium intake is high and wasn't seen at all when consumption is low. The link also is stronger as people age.

—A different nutrient — potassium, found in vegetables and fruits — seems to lower blood pressure and heart risks, and offsets sodium's effect.

—People who consume 3 to 6 grams of sodium a day (about 8 to 15 grams of salt) had the lowest risk of heart problems or death from any cause during the nearly four-year study. More or less sodium raised risk. About three-fourths of the world's population is in

the ideal range. Americans average roughly 4 grams a day.

Guidelines from various groups for heart disease prevention recommend 1.5 to 2.4 grams of sodium a day. The American Heart Association advises no

more than 1.5 grams.

"These are now the best data available," Dr. Brian Strom said of the new study. Strom, the chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, led an Institute of Medicine panel last year that found

little evidence to support very low sodium levels.

"Too-high sodium is bad. Too low also may be bad, and sodium isn't the whole story," Strom said. "People should go for moderation." The study was sponsored by the McMaster institute, nonprofit and government groups and industry, but funders had no role in running it. The countries included Canada but not the United States; China accounted for 42 percent of participants. About 40 percent had high blood pressure. Sodium levels were estimated from a single urine test instead of the preferred method of over 24 hours at multiple times, which Yusuf said was impractical in such a big group. That drew criticism from a host of scientists.

"This is a fundamental flaw" that undermines confidence in the results, said Dr. Elliott Antman, a Brigham and Women's Hospital cardiologist who is president of the Heart Association. □

Stanford professor first woman to win top math prize



This undated photo provided by Professor Maryam Mirzakhani via Stanford shows her on the university's campus.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Iranian-born Stanford University professor is the first woman to win math's highest honor, the Fields Medal. The International Mathematics Union awarded the prize to Maryam Mirzakhani and three others at a meeting in Seoul on Wednesday. The prize and \$13,700 is awarded every four years

to mathematicians 40 years old or younger. It was established in 1936.

Mirzakhani, 37, won for complex theoretical math on the symmetry of curved surfaces, including spheres and even doughnuts.

"This is a great honor. I will be happy if it encourages young female scientists and mathematicians,"

she said in a statement released by Stanford. "I am sure there will be many more women winning this kind of award in coming years." Mirzakhani was born and raised in Tehran, Iran, where she earned her bachelor's degree. She got her doctorate at Harvard University.

As a young girl, she wanted to become a writer. But by high school, she developed an affinity for solving mathematical problems.

"It is fun — it's like solving a puzzle or connecting the dots in a detective case," she said. "I felt that this was something I could do, and I wanted to pursue this path." The other winners are Artur Avila, a Brazilian-born professor at the Institute of Mathematics of Jussieu in Paris, Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University and Martin Hairer of the University of Warwick in England. □

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Robin Williams' wife: He had Parkinson's disease

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Robin Williams was in the early stages of Parkinson's disease at the time of his death, his wife said Thursday.

In a statement, Susan Schneider said that Williams, 63, was struggling with depression, anxiety and the Parkinson's diagnosis when he died Monday in his Northern California home. Authorities said he committed suicide.

"Robin's sobriety was intact and he was brave as he struggled with his own battles of depression, anxiety as well as early stages of Parkinson's disease, which he was not yet ready to share publicly," Schneider said.

Schneider did not offer details on when the actor comedian had been diagnosed or his symptoms.

The Marin County Sheriff's Department, which said Williams hanged himself, is conducting toxicology tests and interviews before issuing a final ruling. Lt. Keith Boyd of the Marin County Sheriff's Department did not return phone calls and email messages from The Associated Press seeking comment on Schneider's statement.

Williams' death shocked fans and friends alike, despite his candor about decades of struggle with substance abuse and mental health. With Parkinson's, Williams faced shouldering yet another challenge. Parkinson's disease is an incurable nervous system disorder that involves a loss of brain cells controlling movement. Tremors, sometimes starting out in just one hand, are among the early symptoms.

It can also cause rigid, halting walking, slowed speech and sometimes dementia. Symptoms worsen over time and can often be treated with drugs.

Actor Michael J. Fox, who has long had the disease and is known for his efforts to fund research into

it, tweeted that he was stunned to learn Williams had early symptoms.

"Stunned to learn Robin had PD. Pretty sure his support for our Fdn predated his diagnosis. A true friend; I wish him peace," Fox tweeted.

Pop star Linda Ronstadt revealed in 2013 that she had Parkinson's and said the disease had robbed her of her ability to sing. Boxer Muhammad Ali, the late radio personality Casey Kasem and the late Pope John Paul II are among other well-known figures diagnosed with the disease. Parkinson's affects about 1 million people nationwide, 6 million globally. The cause isn't known but genes are thought to play a role.

There is no standard test for Parkinson's; doctors rely on symptoms, medical history and neurological exams to make the diagnosis.

Dr. Tanya Simuni, director of the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center at Northwestern University's medical school in Chicago, said patients often react to the diagnosis with surprise and despair.

Depression is often present even in early stages and can sometimes precede tremors that help doctors make the diagnosis, Simuni said.

It's important to emphasize that not everyone who is depressed has Parkinson's or is likely to develop it, she said, especially given "this tragic case" involving Williams in which the two diseases occurred.

She noted that many can live for years without severely debilitating symptoms, but also that 20 years after diagnosis, as many as 80 percent develop dementia. Antidepressants are among drugs commonly prescribed for the disease, along with medication to help control jerky movements.

Dr. Christopher Gomez, neurology chairman at the University of Chicago, said while it makes sense to think that a diagnosis

could make someone feel depressed, depression and Parkinson's have a deeper, more organic connection. They are thought to affect the same regions of the brain, although their neurological relationship isn't well understood, he said.

"It's downright curious that there's so much depression in Parkinson's," Gomez said.

Williams had publicly acknowledged periodic struggles with substance abuse, including alcohol. Recently, depression prompted him to enter rehab.

Schneider said that those who loved Williams are taking solace in the outpouring of affection and admiration for him.

"It is our hope in the wake of Robin's tragic passing, that others will find the strength to seek the care and support they need to



This Nov. 9, 2009 file photo shows actor Robin Williams, right, and his wife Susan Schneider at the premiere of "Old Dogs" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

treat whatever battles they are facing so they may feel less afraid," she said in her statement.

Williams, whose comic brilliance first gained wide attention on the 1980s sitcom "Mork & Mindy," evolved into a respected dramatic actor who starred in films

such as "Good Will Hunting," for which he an Oscar, "Dead Poets Society" and "Mrs. Doubtfire."

He was invariably upbeat in public and with his friends and colleagues, and was known for his philanthropic efforts and support for U.S. troops and veterans. □

Orwell representative accuses Amazon of doublespeak



This undated file photo shows writer George Orwell, author of "1984." The literary executor of George Orwell's estate is accusing Amazon.com of quoting Orwell out of context.

Associated Press

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The literary executor of George Orwell's estate is accusing Amazon.com of committing an Orwellian crime: doublespeak. In a letter published this week in The New York Times, Bill Hamilton criticized the online retailer for "turning the facts inside out" by alleging that the British author known for the novels "1984" and "Ani-

mal Farm" had urged publishers in the 1930s to join together and stop the rise of paperbacks. "I'm both appalled and wryly amused that Amazon's tactics should come straight out of Orwell's own nightmare dystopia, '1984,'" Hamilton Amazon and Hachette Book Group have been locked in a nasty standoff over terms for e-book sales, with Amazon removing pre-order buttons, reduc-

ing discounts and slowing deliveries for many Hachette releases. Amazon has defended its actions, saying that it is fighting to keep e-book prices low, ideally around \$9.99 for new releases, a rate Hachette and other publishers fear is unsustainable.

In a message posted last week on its website, Amazon likened publishers' objections to concerns about paperbacks in the 1930s. The retailer cited a 1936 Orwell essay in which he wrote of paperbacks that if "publishers had any sense, they would combine against them and suppress them." Amazon stated "George Orwell was suggesting collusion," a reference to the 2012 government lawsuit alleging that Apple and five publishers, including Hachette, had conspired to raise e-book prices. All five publishers settled out of court and a federal judge in 2013 ruled against Apple. □

Chuck Todd taking over NBC's 'Meet the Press'

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Embattled "Meet the Press" moderator David Gregory is leaving NBC News and Chuck Todd will replace him on the venerable Sunday morning public affairs program, NBC said Thursday.

Todd begins his new role on Sept. 7.

He remains as NBC News' political director, but will relinquish his duties as Chief White House correspondent and anchor of MSNBC's "The Daily Rundown." He has been a frequent guest on "Meet the Press" as a political analyst.

The 42-year-old Todd came to NBC in 2007 after working for National Journal's "The Hotline," where he was editor-in-chief.

He becomes only the 11th permanent host of "Meet the Press," which premiered in 1947 and bills itself as "the world's longest-running television program."

Gregory had been moderator since 2008. Before that, he was NBC's Chief White House Correspondent for the eight years of George W. Bush's presidency. He had been with NBC News since



This Sept. 1, 2013 photo released by NBC shows NBC Political Director Chuck Todd on "Meet the Press" in Washington.

Associated Press

1995.

The announcement by NBC News president Deborah Turness ended months of speculation that Gregory's time was running out on the program, which during his tenure has fallen from first to third place, ranking behind CBS' "Face the Nation" and ABC's "This Week."

Its ratings erosion felt even

more pronounced since Gregory had followed the late Tim Russert, a popular, larger-than-life figure who became almost as much an institution as the program over which he presided for 16 years. He was its longest-serving moderator until his sudden death in June 2008. Under Russert, the show was by far the dominant program in its category.

"I'm not Tim," Gregory told viewers when his "Meet the Press" appointment was declared. "But I can just work real hard to make him proud."

In February 2013, the network signed Gregory to a new contract it described as "a long-term commitment."

But one published report in recent months stated that Gregory would be replaced after the midterm elections. And a story published in April by The Washington Post said that NBC commissioned a "psychological consultant" to interview Gregory's wife and friends. NBC responded that it had simply worked with a brand consultant probing perceptions of Gregory's strengths and weaknesses

moved to defend Gregory with a memo to the "Meet the Press" staff expressing support "for the show and for David, now and into the future...."

In Thursday's memo, Turness offered her "sincerest thanks" to Gregory, while declaring that Todd "will ensure that 'Meet the Press' is the beating heart of politics, the place where newsmakers come to make news, where the agenda is set."

This official word followed by a couple of hours a Twitter post by Gregory himself that he was departing:

"I leave NBC as I came — humbled and grateful," he said.

NBC News correspondent Andrea Mitchell will serve as moderator this weekend, Turness said in her statement, adding that Mitchell will "continue to be a central figure of the broadcast, along with some new names that we will announce in the coming days." □

Golden Globes group to air starry dinner online

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The

organization behind the Golden Globes is hosting another star-studded, Champagne-soaked dinner — this time for online broadcast.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association will award its annual grants to nonprofit arts groups at a dinner ceremony Thursday set to stream live on its website, GoldenGlobes.org.

Kristen Bell, Anne Heche, Chris Evans, Kerry Washington, Morgan Freeman, Robert Pattinson and Sofia Vergara are among the celebrities expected to attend.

Though scores of stars regularly help with the annual grant presentation, the private dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel will focus on the nonprofit recipients, said HFFA President Theo Kingma.

"The fact we are able to

give almost \$2 million has to do with the success of the Golden Globes," he said. "But the focus here is on the 49 recipients and the beautiful work they do." The international journalists' group has long shared a portion of its awards-show earnings through grants and scholarships presented at a starry private luncheon. This is the first time the presentation will take place over dinner.

"The main motivation behind it is to make it an even more special event," Kingma said. He said the grant ceremony — which was first streamed online during last year's luncheon — could eventually be televised.

A dinner ceremony allows more people to attend or tune in online, and it offers more opportunity for music presentations. In addition, some of the nonprofits benefiting from HFFA grants will be spotlighted in short videos. □

Museums team up to digitize Warhol films

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of films by Andy Warhol will be digitized and made available for public screening under a museum partnership. The project was announced Thursday by New York City's Museum of Modern Art, the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and visual effects firm MPC. It covers some 500 films Warhol created between 1963 and 1972. Nearly 1,000 rolls of 16mm film will be digitally scanned

into high-resolution images. The process will begin this month and take several years to complete.

The films themselves have been housed at MoMA since the early 1990s.

The Pittsburgh-born Warhol died in 1987 at age 58. He was one of the most prominent American artists of the 20th century.

Warhol worked in various media including painting, printmaking, photography and film. □

From Sneakers to O'Bannon



JOE NOCERA
© 2014 New York Times

"When I first heard about the decision, I was speechless," said Sonny Vaccaro. Speechless as in he never thought this day would come. Vaccaro is the former sneaker marketer turned anti-NCAA crusader, and he was talking about Friday's decision in the O'Bannon case - the one in which Judge Claudia Wilken ruled that the principle of amateurism is not a legal justification for business practices that violate the nation's antitrust laws.

Although he is not a lawyer, Vaccaro is as responsible for the O'Bannon case as anyone. (Disclosure: One of the O'Bannon lawyers works for same law firm as my wife. She has no involvement in the case.)

Vaccaro first got the idea for the lawsuit in the late 1990s, around the time that ESPN bought Classic Sports Network for \$175 million. ESPN Classic, as it was renamed, replays games from the past, many of which involve college teams. The players in those games have long since left college, yet they have no rights to their names and likenesses, just as had been the case when they were in school.

How, wondered Vaccaro, could that possibly be OK? Vaccaro is probably best known for coming up with the idea of the "sneaker contract" during his heyday as a marketer for Nike. That's a deal in which a college coach receives payment for having his team wear a particular brand of sneakers. In the 1980s, still with Nike, he took the idea a step further, paying a university to have all its athletes wear the same brand. There is not much question that Vaccaro helped fuel the commercialization of college sports. Though, as he likes to remind people, "the schools could have turned the money down. They never did."

In 2007, Vaccaro quit his final job in the sneaker industry - he was at Reebok at the time - to devote his time to fighting the NCAA, an organization he had come to loathe. He began going around the country making anti-NCAA speeches at universities. Five years ago, while in Washington to make a speech at Howard University, he had dinner with a lawyer friend and laid out his idea

of bringing a lawsuit revolving around the names and likenesses of former college athletes. Before long, he was put in touch with Michael Hausfeld, a plaintiffs' lawyer who was looking for a high-profile case to run with.

And one other thing: He found Ed O'Bannon, the former UCLA basketball star who became the lead plaintiff. Or, rather, O'Bannon called Vaccaro after seeing an avatar, clearly based on himself, in a video game, asking if he had any recourse. Vaccaro, in turn, put O'Bannon together with Hausfeld. And the rest, as they say, is history.

In the cool light of day, Wilken's decision does not appear likely to radically reshape college sports. The relief she granted the plaintiffs is likely to put some money into the pockets of athletes who play big-time football or men's basketball. But it is certainly not going to make anybody rich, and the average fan won't even notice the difference. It is not like the kind of change that took place when major league baseball players gained the right to become free agents in the 1970s. For instance, she ruled that players still won't be able to endorse products for money. In so ruling, she bought into one of the NCAA's core views - namely that college athletes need to be protected from "commercial exploitation."

What is radical about her decision - and what could pave the way for further changes in other lawsuits - was her dismantling of the various rationales the NCAA has put forth over the years as its justification for insisting on amateurism as the bedrock of college athletics. Assuming her decision stands up on appeal, the NCAA will lose its ability to argue that amateurism is so noble an ideal that, in and of itself, it justifies anticompetitive behavior.

"Do I wish the decision had gone further?" Vaccaro said Monday. "Sure. It vindicated people like me, who have been voices in the wilderness for so long."

"We have exposed them," Hausfeld said. "We have gotten rid of their implicit immunity from the antitrust laws." In March, another antitrust suit was filed against the NCAA, by Jeffrey Kessler, a lawyer best known in the sports world for bringing the suit that gained free agency for professional football players.

Kessler's suit is much more ambitious than O'Bannon's. He is arguing that the "matrix of restrictions" (as he put it to me) that prevent universities from deciding how to value and compensate players is anticompetitive and violates the antitrust laws.

Thus does O'Bannon now pass the baton to Kessler, as the NCAA's critics begin the next leg of this race. □



Hillary, Barbed and Bellicose



FRANK BRUNI
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The other night, a prominent Democrat I know made the craziest statement.

"I don't think Hillary's going to run," he proclaimed, silencing the room. He might as well have said that he'd just spotted Bigfoot pilfering rhubarb from the White House vegetable garden or that Arnold Schwarzenegger was in line to play King Lear on Broadway. ("Cordelia, I'll be baaaaack.") He was humming some kind of loony tune. His evidence?

"She seems tired," he said, and that's when all of us cracked up. Oh, yeah, she seems positively exhausted. That explains the juggernaut of a book tour, the CNN town hall and all the other interviews, including the doozy with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, which I'll turn to in a bit. If there was nap time in there, I missed it.

Without yet becoming president, she has ascended to some level of saturation exposure that's above and beyond omnipresent. At this point she's practically ambient. Her "inevitability" may boil down to the fact that no one can imagine a political ecosystem - nay, a habitable environment! - without her. When it comes to the Clintons, we apparently have two choices. Put them on Rushmore, or put them back in the White House.

And yet.

She is walking a tightrope, and the challenge and peril of it become clearer all the time. The question isn't whether she's running: Of course she is, and the only newsworthy announcement down the road would be that she's getting out of the race. The question is whether she can belittle Barack Obama as much as she must in order to win, but not so much that it plays as an act of sheer betrayal.

She needs the voters who elected him, twice, and who maintain affection for him. She also needs the voters in the throes of buyer's remorse. Many of them jilted her for their romance with him and now see it as a heady but heedless affair. Can she exploit that, but in a high-minded, diplomatic fashion?

Not on the evidence of her blunt and condescending remarks to Goldberg, which were published over the weekend.

With Obama's approval ratings sinking lower, especially in the realm of foreign policy, she reiterated that he'd made the wrong call in not arming Syrian rebels. This time around she also suggested that the jihadists of the Islamic State wouldn't be so potent if we'd gone a different route.

But that wasn't the surprise. Nor, really, were the words that she summoned - stronger than the president's - to defend Israel's military actions in Gaza.

The clincher was this withering assessment of Obama's approach to the world: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle." A sagacious elder was rolling her eyes at a novice's folly.

It wasn't her only admonishment. "When you are hunkering down and pulling back, you're not going to make any better decisions than when you were aggressively, belligerently putting yourself forward," she said. "One issue is that we don't even tell

our own story very well these days." That would presumably be the fault of the storyteller in chief.

Her welling dissent leaves her exposed on several fronts. If decisions made while she was still the secretary of state were flawed, is she blameless? Sure, her job, like any appointee's, was to implement the chief executive's vision, to follow his lead. But it was also to lobby and leave an imprint. Is she conceding that she didn't do that effectively enough?

Her dissent also subjects her to the charge that has long dogged her: Everything is calculation and calibration. Obama's down, so she's suddenly and gratuitously blunt, dismissing his doctrine as more of a ditty.

Clinton is in a bind, because the president is indeed ripe for second-guessing, and because she is and has to be her own person, with differences of opinion that are surely genuine.

She must marvel at the strange turn of events. In the 2008 presidential campaign, she suffered for seeming too truculent in comparison with him, and he held her vote to authorize force in Iraq over her. Now she feels forced to make clear that she's more truculent than he is, and his authorization of force in Iraq could have reverberations for his successor.

And she's compelled to pledge a departure from the last 6 1/2 years, because polls reveal a profound, stubborn discontent and pessimism in Americans. The soft bromides of "Hard Choices" aren't going to do the trick. Is her barbed commentary in the Goldberg interview a better bet? Or can she find a bitter-sweet spot in between?

Although she's always been a stickler for loyalty, her inevitability could hinge on how well she finessees disloyalty. It's not going to be easy. But if you think it'll dissuade her, have I got a Broadway play for you. □

NFL Seeks Right Answer For Marijuana Use

EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

Marijuana is casting an ever-thickening haze across NFL locker rooms, and it's not simply because more players are using it.

As attitudes toward the drug soften, and science slowly teases out marijuana's possible benefits for concussions and other injuries, the NFL is reaching a critical point in navigating its tenuous relationship with what is recognized as the analgesic of choice for many of its players.

"It's not, let's go smoke a joint," retired NFL defensive lineman Marvin Washington said.

"It's, what if you could take something that helps you heal faster from a concussion, that prevents your equilibrium from being off for two weeks and your eyesight for being off for four weeks?"

One challenge the NFL faces is how to bring marijuana into the game as a pain reliever without condoning its use as a recreational drug. And facing a lawsuit filed on behalf of hundreds of former players complaining about the effects of prescription painkillers they say were pushed on them by team trainers and doctors, the NFL is looking for other ways to help players deal with the pain from a violent game.

A Gallup poll last year found 58 percent of Americans believe marijuana should be legalized. That's already happened in Colorado and Washington — the states that are the home of last season's Super Bowl teams.

The World Anti-Doping Agency has said it does not need to catch out-of-competition marijuana users. And at least one high-profile coach, Pete Carroll of the champion Seahawks, publicly said he'd like to see the NFL study whether marijuana can help players.

There are no hard numbers on how many NFL players are using marijuana, but anecdotal evidence, including the arrest or league discipline of no fewer than a dozen players for pot over the past 18 months, suggests use is becoming more common.

Redskins offensive lineman Ryan Clark didn't want to pinpoint the number of current NFL players who smoke pot but said, "I know a lot of guys who don't regularly smoke marijuana who

would use it during the season."

Washington wouldn't put a specific number on it but said he, too, knew his share of players who weren't shy about lighting up when he was in the league, including one guy "who just hated the pain pills they were giving out at the time." Another longtime defensive lineman, Marcellus Wiley, estimates half the players in the average NFL locker room were using it by the time he shut down his career in 2006.

cotics and other painkillers might be better for others.

"Different medicines work differently from person to person," Vandrey said. "There's pretty good science that shows marijuana does have pain relieving properties. Whether it's a better pain reliever than the other things available has never been evaluated."

Washington, who is part of the concussion lawsuit, is working with a bio-pharmaceutical and phyto-medical company called

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has treaded gingerly around the subject. Before last season's Super Bowl he said the league would "follow the medicine" and not rule out allowing players to use marijuana for medical purposes. An NFL spokesman reiterated that this month, saying if medical advisers inform the league it should consider modifying the policy, it would explore possible changes.

A spokesman for the players union declined com-

The NFL drug policy has come under even more scrutiny this summer, after the NFL handed down a season-long suspension of Browns receiver Josh Gordon for multiple violations of the NFL substance-abuse policy. That suspension, especially when juxtaposed against the two-game ban Ray Rice received for domestic violence, has led some to say the league's priorities are out of whack. In June, Harvard Medical School professor emeritus Lester Grinspoon, one of the forefathers of marijuana research, published an open letter to Goodell, urging him to drop urine testing for weed altogether and, more importantly, fund a crash research project for a marijuana-based drug that can alleviate the consequences of concussions. "As much as I love to watch professional football, I'm beginning to feel like a Roman in the days when they would send Christians to the lions," Grinspoon said. "I don't want to be part of an audience that sees kids ruin their future with this game, and then the league doesn't give them any recourse to try to protect themselves."

The league does, in fact, fund sports-health research at the NIH, to the tune of a \$30 million donation it made in 2012. But the science moves slowly no matter where it's conducted and, as Vandrey says, "the NFL is in business for playing football, not doing scientific research."

Meanwhile, marijuana becomes more and more acceptable across America every day. But even with the Super Bowl being dubbed "The Stoner Bowl" and the issue hanging heavily over the NFL's marquee event, the league has shown no signs of quick movement.

The league's threshold for a positive test remains 10 times lower than that of WADA, which changed its limit last year in a nod to the reality that the drug is not a performance enhancer.

The NFL's conundrum is figuring a graceful way to keep tabs on those who use marijuana recklessly — or recreationally — while giving others a legitimate form of pain relief.

"I'd like to see us advance the subject to where we're all mature and we get it," Wiley said, "and we let players make the decision for themselves." □



In this file photo, Jacksonville Jaguars defensive lineman Marcellus Wiley, right, tries to take down New England Patriots wide receiver Andre Davis during a wild card playoff football game in Foxborough, Mass. As attitudes toward marijuana soften, and science slowly teases out possible benefits for concussions and other injuries, the NFL is reaching a critical point in navigating its tenuous relationship with what is being recognized, more and more, as the analgesic of choice for many of its players. "They are leaning on it to cope with the pain," said Wiley, who played defensive line in the league for 10 seasons. "They are leaning on it to cope with the anxiety of the game."

(AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

"They are leaning on it to cope with the pain," said Wiley, who played defensive line in the league for 10 seasons. "They are leaning on it to cope with the anxiety of the game."

The NFL is fighting lawsuits on two fronts — concussions and painkillers — both of which, some argue, could be positively influenced if marijuana were better tolerated by the league.

The science, however, is slow-moving and expensive and might not ever be conclusive, says behavioral psychologist Ryan Vandrey, who studies marijuana use at John Hopkins. Marijuana may work better for some people, while nar-

KannaLife Sciences that recently received licensing from the National Institutes of Health to develop a drug to treat concussions using derivatives from medical marijuana.

Co-founder Thoma Kikis, who has been working on cannabis-based solutions to concussions for a few years, said he approached the NFL about signing on to the research.

"They didn't want to meet, didn't want to take a position to create any kind of controversy," Kikis said. "I understand that. But ultimately, they're going to have to make a decision and look into different research."

ment on marijuana, beyond saying the union is always looking for ways to improve the drug-testing policy.

But earlier this year, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said the marijuana policy is secondary when set against the failure to bring Human Growth Hormone testing into the game. Some believe relaxing the marijuana rules could be linked to a deal that would bring in HGH testing.

"I've heard that in conversations," said Wiley, a plaintiff in the painkiller lawsuit. "And I think it's despicable that you'd pit them against each other."